

Sports A look back at prep athletic feats in 2002 [A8]

Arts Weaving exhibition displays fabric of Philippine culture [C3]

Clues to area's past set in stone

up researching carvings says steps will be taken to preserve El Cerrito site

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A boulder on Canyon Trail Park is a mine of ancient Indian clues created for ritualistic purposes, the carvings are subtle and are unlikely to be noticed by anyone walking past the area.

In the Bay Area, the boulder is one of three easily accessible sites that contain an example of ancient rock art, according to rock art expert Leigh Marymor.

"There's lots of other sites, but they're either on public land but in more remote areas or in private land," said Marymor, a Berkeley resident and co-founder of the Bay Area Rock Art Research Association (BARARA).

The boulder, about 6 feet high and 4 feet across, is a beauty: oversized, blue-green and smooth to the touch. For rock art enthusiasts, it offers much more. Scores of shallow and large depressions are carved into the rock. There are also areas where the rock is carved in circles, creating bumps in the surface.


"It's likely the act of carving was important, probably more important than the design left behind," said Marymor, adding that carvings are the probably the first known examples of people making images.

Marymor can only speculate on the purpose or function of the carvings. The shallow depressions and bumps in the surface may have been used in ceremonies. The larger depressions may have been used for grinding acorns.

Similar rock art styles are seen up and down the California coastline, and Marymor believes they were created by Hokan-speaking Indians somewhere between 3,000 and 8,000 years ago.

Rock art is a life pursuit for Marymor, who is the president of a plumbing contracting business, the Lent Marymor Company. He single-handedly created and is still updating a computerized rock art bibliography at the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley. It took him about nine years to do and is the largest such resource in the world, he said.

He became fascinated with rock art about 25 years ago, while living in Arizona. He had a dream about rock art images,



JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

THE CHLORIDE SCHIST rock in Canyon Trail Park has native carvings predating the Ohlone people. Evidence includes these mortar holes, which may have been used to grind acorns.



TUCK is creating a replica mini amusement park housed in his El Cerrito business. The replica is modeled after the long-forgotten and fondly remembered Whitney's Playland-at-the-Beach in San Francisco.

Businessman pursues sideshow sideline

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — There are no pinball machines, bumper cars, or roller rides. But in the back of a building at San Pablo Avenue and Jefferson Avenue, you can practically smell the sizzle of mini-amusement park rides.

More than 40 pinball machines dating back to the 1930s, several century-old penny game machines, scores of colorful circus and amusement park artifacts, and a large detailed miniature circus scene can be found in a warehouse area of a building owned by Richard Tuck.

The mini-amusement park/museum was started two years ago as a fluke and has grown only more impressive with the help of volunteers.

"It's nothing that anyone else has ever done before," said Tuck, the 55-year-old CEO of Lander International, an executive-search firm. "Most people when they walk in, their eyes widen and they say, 'Wow, I can't believe this.'"

Tuck's project began two years ago when a detailed wooden miniature circus hand-carved by El Cerrito resident Don Marks and his father was set up on display tables as a way to

Judge upholds city subdivision denial

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — A City Council decision that kept a 14-home development from being built in the El Cerrito hills has been upheld by a Contra Costa Superior Court judge.

In May, the council voted to deny a fifth extension of time requested by Martinez-based developer Jim Busby, president of Security Owners Corporation. The extension was needed to keep afloat a plan to build the 14-home Bay Vista subdivision at Potrero Avenue and Madera Circle.

Busby promptly appealed the council's decision. On Dec. 17, a judge denied the appeal, saying there was substantial evidence supporting the council's decision.

The judge's decision is a victory for the creek advocacy group Friends of Baxter Creek. The group urged the City Council to deny the extension, in order to protect a small waterway there, which they dubbed Wildwood Creek.

Busby has the option of appealing the judge's decision to the 1st District Court of Appeals in San Francisco, according to El Cerrito city attorney Janet Coleman.

See DENIAL, Page A7

Court throws out garbage lawsuit

STAFF REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO — A state appeals court in San Francisco rejected this week a false arrest lawsuit filed against the Albany Unified School District by a man who dumped gallons of garbage on the floor during a school board meeting.

David McMahon emptied several bags of rubbish, which he said included drug paraphernalia and alcohol containers, at an April 1996 meeting to protest trash allegedly left in the neighborhood by Albany High School students.

McMahon, who had previously complained about trash at two other meetings, said he had picked up the litter in his neighborhood during the past several weeks.

As McMahon dumped the trash onto a tarp and the floor at an elementary school, school Superintendent Dale Hudson called police and made a citizen's arrest of McMahon for disturbing a public meeting.

McMahon was taken to a police station in handcuffs, cited

See GARBAGE, Page A7



High School's book club discuss "Black, White and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self" by Rebecca Walker, Alice Walker's daughter, at their Dec. 11 meeting in Paula Gocker's classroom.

High school book clubs struggle, flourish

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — It's perhaps not that easy to get parents, teachers and students into one room to talk about their thoughts and feelings, but the El Cerrito High School Book Club has been doing just that, once a month, for more than a year.

There are scores of book clubs in the East Bay, perhaps hundreds throughout the Bay Area, that cater to every demographic and every taste in books. Participants can gain a new, thought-provoking perspective on their favorite novel, or just feel more connected to their community.

Paula Gocker, an English teacher at El Cerrito High School, started the school's book club with English teacher Joan Cone, in fall 2001, after reading about a group of mothers and daughters who met to discuss books in New York.

"Our hope was that students, teachers and parents could have a good time talking about ideas," said Gocker, who added that she also wanted to show how interesting English classes could be. After a slow start, the group now draws about 30 people.

On Dec. 11, the group was discussing "Black, White and Jewish: Autobiography of a Shifting Self" by Rebecca Walker. The novel is a memoir about Walker's turbulent life with divorced parents: her mother, Alice Walker, the black Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "The Color Purple," and her father, Mel Leventhal, a Jewish lawyer.

Thoughts on the book differed. Some adults thought the book was rambling and lacked a point. More students liked the choppy prose and that the author didn't hold back her feelings about trying to fit in. One teacher was reminded of her adolescence: lacking direction and being obsessed with boys.

In the book, Walker has a hard time fitting in with either white or black people.

Stormy Mills, a freshman, suggested the book because she felt it mirrored a situation at El Cerrito High School. Blacks and whites don't mix at the school, she said. The book also touched on themes of parental responsibility.

Many book groups tend to last for three to four years and then disband, said Suzanne Corson, owner of feminist bookstore

See BOOKS, Page A7

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Power failure puzzle

DURING THE PAST few weeks, Pacific Gas & Electric crews have been working day and night in nasty weather restoring power to millions of customers. They deserve high praise for performing a difficult and dangerous job under poor conditions as a series of storms blew across the state.

While we do not question the dedication of PG&E crews, we do wonder why they have been so busy. The storms that hit the region this fall and early winter have not been unusual nor particularly severe in most areas. Yet the number of power outages has been inordinate.

The storms in early December knocked out power for 2.7 million of PG&E's 4.5 million customers. Many thousands of people were without electricity for days. Some said the utility insisted their power had been restored when it had not. Others complained of long delays for service.

One wonders why there are so many power outages in a region with relatively benign weather and where many power lines are underground. In other parts of the country, where the weather is far more severe and where more above-ground power lines and more trees are the norm, power outages are not nearly as frequent.

It is understandable that power outages might occur with some frequency in PG&E's more remote service areas, where lines are above ground and many trees with shallow roots are susceptible to toppling in wind storms. Frequent outages also would be understandable if California had the kind of severe winter storms that pelted the Northeast and Midwest with snow and ice as well as wind and rain.

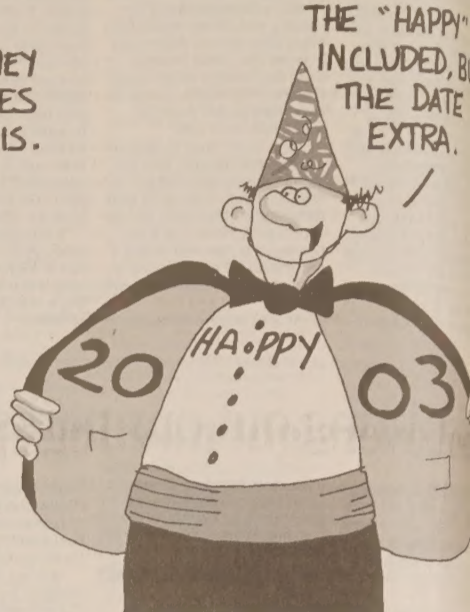
But it is not acceptable for PG&E to have so many widespread power outages in urban and suburban areas where many lines are underground and much of the power equipment is relatively new. It is not acceptable for more than half of PG&E's customers to lose power in a series of moderately severe storms.

Just what is the problem with PG&E? Spokesman Paul Moreno says the utility gets power restored to most of its customers in a short time. That is true, but does not answer the question of why so many people lose power in the first place. Moreno also said the PG&E's service area is largely rural, unlike Southern California utility areas. That is also true; PG&E serves a large rural area, but most of its customers live in urban and suburban areas.

Customers may get some better answers soon. Sarah Reyes, D-Fresno, chairwoman of the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee, has asked for hearings later this month to look into the power outages. Maybe then we will get a clearer picture of why we suffer so many power failures even in urban and suburban areas.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

HAPPY NEW YEAR



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The real story

Your coverage of the campaign-tactics discussion at the Dec. 16 El Cerrito City Council meeting missed the real story.

The concern voiced by many is not sour grapes. It's caused because, in our last election, two incumbents breached the arm's-length relationship elected officials must maintain between themselves and developers, contractors or other interested parties that bring projects before them as the City Council or Redevelopment Agency.

That Janet Abelson and Mark Friedman wrote letters urging people to vote for Sandi Potter is not the issue. The issue is that they colluded with developer Charlie Oewel to distribute these letters through the allegedly independent Committee for Good Public Policy.

Oewel, who donated \$10,000 to fund this committee, is working to develop the Del Norte area. In this capacity, he will be bringing his project before our Redevelopment Agency for assistance and approval.

Why would he spend this kind of money unless he believed it would give him an advantage in his dealings with our City Council/Redevelopment Agency? This type of inappropriate relationship raises questions about the integrity of any action taken by the council and agency involving Oewel.

I urge our council to enact regulations or policies ensuring an arm's-length relationship between developers, contractors or other interested parties who bring projects or appeals before the City Council or Redevelopment Agency and all City Council candidates and incumbents.

Al Miller
El Cerrito

Thanks West County voters

Thanks to the community's backing, I was afforded the opportunity to address critical educational issues facing students in the West Contra Costa school district without once bowing down or conceding to any special interest.

Therefore, I want to thank all those who contributed to my campaign. Their help enabled me to make an impressive showing at the polls. I recently received the final election results and I'm glad to say we were successful in securing about 16,000 votes — the most votes ever received by a first-time West Contra Costa school board candidate. For that reason, everyone who supported me should feel proud of a job well-done.

I intend to continue serving on school district committees, attending school board meetings and participating in other academic forums to help improve the quality of education in our community.

The voters' support has intensified my determination to continue advocating for quality education in our district. I believe that besides making our schools something we can be proud of, we can make them the object of admiration across the country.

If you have any concerns or comments, please feel free to call me at 510-215-7663 or e-mail me at RayinRichmond@citycom.com.

Ray Muhammad
Richmond

Pedestrians unsafe

Once again, while crossing the street at Liberty Street and Fairmount Avenue,

my 7-year-old son and I were just about crushed by a crazed Christmas shopper barreling into the pedestrian-friendly (compared to Interstate 5) El Cerrito Plaza.

Hey, city planners, when are we going to get some pedestrian lights? The Plaza has been open for what now, a year? If the city of El Cerrito has the money to buy a Quonset hut (I mean, an art deco movie theater), then the city should have the money to spend on something important — public safety!

One more thing, since Fairmount Avenue is basically a drag race from the Plaza to the top, where is that motorcycle cop I read about?

Steve Crespan
El Cerrito

A rare public figure

At the time of year when it is virtually impossible to escape hearing chants of goodwill, it is dismaying to see so many letters to the editor that are vicious denunciations of our new mayor.

Unlike Trent Lott's stupid remark, Tom Bates' stupid act was totally inconsistent with his long career of exemplary service. All of us owe him a large debt for what he accomplished for Berkeley and its surroundings in his years as our assemblyman.

The sum of his achievements thus far reflects the rarest kind of public figure, a man whose steady, calm and creative work has been directed toward the protection and improvement of the lives of his constituents rather than toward self-aggrandizement.

Bates' impulsive and foolish behavior for one moment at the end of a grueling campaign was obviously not intended to help himself get elected, or even, as some preposterously charge, to "suppress" the newspaper.

It will, of course, never be forgotten, but it would be a tragic mistake to let a momentary aberration deprive us of his talent when we sorely need it.

Norman Rabbkin
Berkeley

Bates should resign

I am deeply concerned regarding the recent revelation that Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates was personally responsible for throwing out hundreds of Daily Californians the day before the election in which he was a candidate.

The Nov. 4 issue of the Daily Cal endorsed his then-rival for the Berkeley mayor's office, Shirley Dean.

This criminal act has continued a climate of intolerance to diverse viewpoints that should be anathema to the free-speech tradition. Sadly, thefts of campus newspapers and the shouting down of

speakers have also become something of a tradition in Berkeley.

Bates has shamelessly disregarded the sacrosanct rights that should be held precious, namely, freedom of expression, and must be held accountable.

Bates clearly does not deserve the office he holds or the trust of the city of Berkeley. His only honorable option is to resign immediately.

Eric R. Good
Berkeley

Thanks, Albany firefighters

What one hopes will never happen is the most happened to us.

Recently, a forgotten pot of food left cooking on the stove, my mother, who was sleeping in her room, was alone in the house. She did not hear the smoke alarm, nor did she hear the house alarm go off.

Our ADT alarm system called the Albany Fire Department to investigate. They did not force their way into the house, my grandmother could have died from smoke inhalation.

We also can now appreciate having an alarm system that can call for help when we cannot. In this case, had we just had a smoke detector, the consequences would have been devastating.

On behalf of my family and me, thank you to all of you at the Albany fire police departments who responded so quickly to the call.

Sally Basurto
Albany

Bush drives Iraq's oil exports

Thanks for the revelation that the U.S. supplied more of California's oil in 2001 than any other country, including Saudi Arabia ("State drivers pay the price to fill 'er up," Dec. 6).

Your article correctly indicted the happy Californians for inadvertently subsidizing these repressive regimes. But should really indict the Bush administration, which has had nearly two years to ban Iraqi oil imports but has failed to do so.

President Bush claims, unconvincingly, that Iraq's government is uniquely repellent. If so, shouldn't he have made every effort to control it through economic pressure before risking any American soldiers' lives?

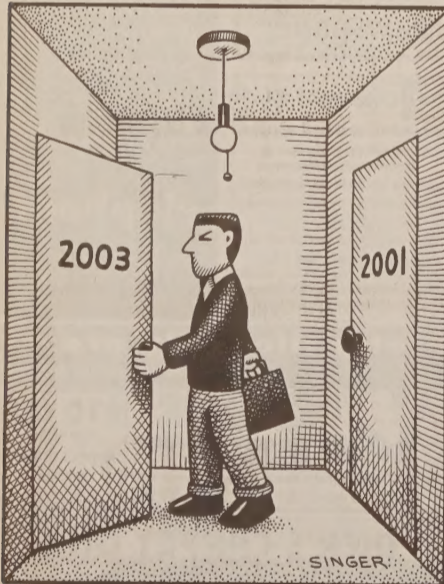
Let's remember that Bush and most bellicose appointees spent their generation's Iraq (Vietnam) in safe domestic National Guard postings or distant draft deferments.

Other nations have outpaced Iraq in developing nuclear weapons outside international control but haven't faced Bush threats. To North Korea and Iran, Bush has extended a mix of economic sanctions and incentives. To rogue nuclear powers Pakistan and Israel, he has provided a mix of economic and military aid.

Yet with Iraq, Bush (and the cabinet he largely inherited from his father) seems to want a war. This isn't about America's national security. It's evidence about their desire to clean up the Bush presidency's image. That the Bush presidency remains marred by the first built up Iraq's Saddam Hussein, who blundered into a needless and inconclusive war that didn't unseat Saddam. Michael A. Baker

NO EXIT

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or State Capitol, Room 2068,
Sacramento CA 95814 • 916-445-6083,
e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014, Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 101 Broadway, Richmond, CA 94804, 510-234-0211; Fax: 510-234-0213.

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231, Fax: 510-374-3429, E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-

costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695, Fax: 510-271-5151, E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300, E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

Police Protection and Community Services District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-526-4141

School board members

West Contra Costa Unified School District: 510-620-2246

Karen Leong Fenton, school board president: 510-236-8460

Albany Unified School District: 510-558-3766

Family's show of faith launched author's career



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

the week:
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that just came to
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Until I feared I
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Mockingbird," and I was
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ing testament not
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also to the impor-
writing and and
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please. Merry Christmas."

She is, of course, shocked, and protests that she can't accept but they stand their ground: "They wanted to show their faith in me the best way they know how. Whether I ever sold a line was immaterial." She ends the essay by repeating this phrase "our faith in you," and how she determined not to fail them.

I had many thoughts after reading this piece. First, what if they hadn't done this? Would the world have still had "To Kill a Mockingbird"? Then, how wonderful to support something like writing, with no guarantees but with a great belief in its importance in the world. It reminds me of the children's book "Frederick" by Leo Lionni. In it, a family of field mice works night and day to prepare for winter. But Frederick just sits and thinks and watches, assuring them he is doing his job. Finally, winter comes and they run through all their supplies and then turn to Frederick, who uses words to warm them and fill their lives with beauty and color.

This year, without any discussion, our family gave and received many books for the holidays. Cookbooks, novels, Presidential quotes, old Russian short stories, photography books, Orwell's essays, "Fast Food Nation" — we covered most topics. It was great.

READER REVIEW: Today's book review is from Debby and the book is "The Great Hedge of India: The Search for the Living Barrier That Divided a People," by Roy Moxham. Debby says this book is "one of the most effective accounts of colonialism I've ever read." It is about "the custom line that the British created across India, to be able to secure a duty on salt. This custom line was a hedge, which at its peak was 2,300 miles long, 12 feet tall, 5 feet thick and was manned by 12,000 people." She highly recommends the book, calling it "beautifully written, yet chatty."

Questions? Comments? I can be reached at the Albany Library or at jwinkelstein@aclubrary.org

A promising trend of collaboration



BETTY KING BUGINAS
Schools

I GOT CALLED for jury duty the other day. It could have been a wasted couple of days, at least in terms of using my time in a way that helps me teach first grade. It turned out, though, that I found just what I've been looking for there in the juror waiting room.

There was a face across the room that I recognized vaguely from some of the multitude of school district training sessions I've attended in the past 13 odd years. This other person and I got to talking, and it turned out she also teaches first grade in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. What's more, she and some of her colleagues have used Open Court language arts materials intensely for the past few years.

The district has asked pretty much all teachers of kindergarten through fifth grade students to fully implement Open Court materials this year. One of the challenges is there are very few among our ranks who have had much experience with the materials before this year, so it is difficult to find anyone to turn to for advice. This other teacher was exactly what I was looking for. So while most of the other prospective jurors read books and magazines and talked on cell phones, we collaborated.

For me, collaboration has been the most promising thing to come out of the school reform efforts of recent years. It has been a rocky few years in teaching. The state's approach to reform, laced with threats and rewards and driven at least in part by political agendas, certainly has its flaws.

I really can't speak for other teachers, who may be at schools with completely different circumstances. But my experience is that I'm having a lot more opportunities to have serious, professional conversations with other teachers about what we teach and how we teach it. Teachers have always talked to one another and shared ideas. But what I'm hearing now are conversations that go much deeper, and are

more focused in terms of the academic goals we are trying to achieve.

In addition to the impromptu conversations — and some of those are the most valuable — we're talking more with teachers at our grade level, school wide, and from other schools. We're also talking more with parents and outside experts.

Whatever downsides there are to the state content standards and the push for a common curriculum, one thing the standardization does do is support collaboration among teachers. It's much easier to find common ground to plan together and compare results when we are teaching similar lessons.

One of the big huddles for us as teachers is getting used to having other teachers in our classrooms. We can learn a lot from seeing others teach, and from having them watch us and offer feedback. But we are mostly used to going in our classrooms and closing the doors, and it is a big step to invite someone else in and be open to their comments.

One of the big challenges to collaboration is finding time to meet. There is very little time in our day in which all of the teachers who need to meet together — perhaps all of the teachers at a grade level or who teach the same subject, or even the whole staff — are free. But it seems like finding this time, and developing our collaboration skills, are the key to making long-term improvements to our schools.

Betty King Buginas is a teacher in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

School oversight meetings poorly attended

Contra Costa
argued with
renovation
pending often lacks
to vote on issues
Kara Shire
STAFF WRITER

Committee charged with
nearly \$500 million
construction bonds for
Contra Costa school
disfranchising from an atten-

member citizens over-
committee has struggled for
to maintain a quor-
a four-month meet-
sessions have dwin-
few as 10 people,
impossible to take of-

ually started falling
the first year," said
chairman Dick King.
people dropped out
replaced (when their
left). The main prob-
is you don't get

the input from all the different groups that have concern with the district.

The citizens oversight committee includes appointees from cities, the county, a parent group, business groups, the district's four unions and school board trustees.

Members include Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, Pinole Mayor Betty Boyle, San Pablo Vice Mayor Barbara Vigil, Chavez Elementary School Principal Marcos Gonzales and United Teachers of Richmond President Terri Jackson.

"The idea was to try to give representation to as many people as possible," said George Harris III, a West Contra Costa school board member who is also on the committee.

"But it hasn't worked out as we envisioned it. Maybe we need to go back to a system that only relies on seven or eight people."

Oversight committee members were first appointed in 2001 after voters approved Measure M, a \$150 million bond meant to

fix the district's dilapidated elementary schools. Measure M now is expected to repair just 19 of the 41 proposed projects.

The panel also oversees Measure D, a \$300 million bond approved by voters in March to repair secondary campuses.

The committee's role, according to West Contra Costa school district attorneys, is "to ensure that spending decisions made by elected officials will be subject to direct taxpayer review, and that the public will be promptly alerted to any waste or abuse."

But can that happen if half the members aren't there?

"When you have low attendance, the people who show up faithfully, their viewpoint has the potential to be disproportionately represented," said Harris, who admits his own attendance on the advisory board has been poor this year.

Committee member and Richmond City Councilman Gary Bell, who also admits to spotty attendance during the past year, said absences make the oversight

committee's job more difficult.

"I think it does hinder the process," Bell said. "You can't vote on things, and you can't pass on (official) recommendations to the board."

Mike Mahoney, a committee member who regularly attends meetings, said boosting attendance is a priority. "I think it would be nicer with more input," he said. "I believe that's why they wanted 23 members."

King said he is sending letters to groups represented on the committee, alerting them to the advisory board's attendance problems.

He is also working with other committee members to draft a policy that will replace members whose attendance continues to be a problem.

"I wouldn't say that they don't come because they're not interested," King said.

"I think the ones that don't come have other conflicts. So somehow we have to reschedule this so we have less conflicts. We're hoping to get them back."

PTA NEWS

Albany Middle School

Jan. 9, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., AMS Li-

High School

Meeting 7 p.m., AHS Li-

Chapter of Albany Music

ational Improvement Com-

ing, 7 p.m., Asst. Prin.

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Jan. 23, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean

View Library Scrip Orders: Call Kim

Denton at 510-528-6480.

AUSD Board of Education

Jan. 7, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cor-

AUSD Calendar

Jan. 20, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No

School.

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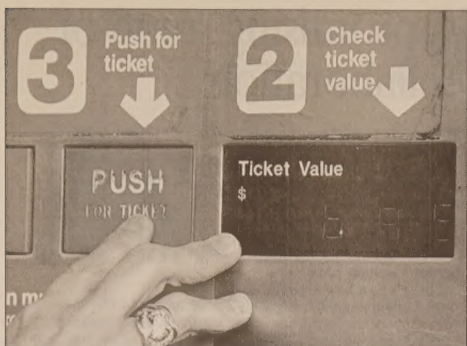
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JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO/STAFF

THE FARE HIKE, adopted by BART's board of directors in June, is the first for the three-county system in more than five years. The increase is one of several steps to cut costs, which included layoffs, project delays and parking fees that have gone in effect this year.

BART fare hike aims to close gap

■ The boost effective Wednesday amounts to an extra nickel or dime per trip for most riders, or a quarter for longer rides

By Matt Krupnick
STAFF WRITER

BART has raised fares as of Wednesday to try to close the last remnants of a \$60 million budget shortfall.

The 5 percent increase is expected to raise about \$4 million for the light-rail operator through June, the end of the fiscal year. The boost amounts to an extra nickel or dime per trip for most riders, while the price for longer rides will increase as much as 25 cents.

A trip from Daly City to Pittsburg, for example, will rise from \$4.65 to \$4.90. The increase will go into effect at 8 a.m. Wednesday. BART spokesman Mike Healy said the rising fares should help the agency bounce back from a severe revenue drop.

"We were actually doing very well until about a year ago," Healy said. "Then the bottom fell out of the economy."

Ridership has dropped 6 percent in the past year, while income from sales taxes has fallen more than 3 percent.

The fare hike, adopted by the BART Board of Directors in June, is the first for the three-county system in more than five years. Directors raised fares 45 percent in the mid-1990s.

The latest increase is one of several steps to cut costs, which

included layoffs, project delays and parking fees already in effect this year.

For now, prices will remain higher through June, and officials have yet to decide what will happen after that.

"We don't know, at this point, how it's going to go," Healy said. "We expect the shortfall to continue into the next fiscal year."

BART isn't the only transit system to experience budget problems caused by the sluggish economy. Bus and train operators nationwide have reported low ridership figures and decreased income this year.

With 54 percent of mass-transit trips taken to or from people's workplaces, train and bus systems are acutely affected by economic slumps, said Donna Aggazio, a spokeswoman for the American Public Transportation Association.

The association will push federal officials for financial help in the next year, Aggazio said.

"Transit is a big part of the economy," she said. "Without it, a lot of communities wouldn't be what they are."

The Metropolitan Transit Development Board in San Diego, faced with a \$19 million deficit, is likely to consider fare hikes on its bus and train lines in 2003, said agency spokesman Gonzalo Lopez.

"We do somehow need to bring that (deficit) in line," Lopez said. "We're going to have hard choices."

Reach Matt Krupnick at 925-943-8246 or mkupnick@cctimes.com.



JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO/TIMES

HONORA GRAEBER, left, and Debbie Bowman, both of Napa, buy tickets Sunday to San Francisco at the Walnut Creek BART station. Ridership has dropped 6 percent in the past year, while income from sales taxes has fallen more than 3 percent, BART officials say.

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BART HAS DESIGNED its 1-acre Millbrae station with elements, such as a tiled compass rose, that hark back to old-time transit

BART airport extension nearly done

By Lisa Vorderbruegg
STAFF WRITER

The signs look good. "San Francisco International Airport," read the black and white placards affixed to the ceiling.

In a month or two, promises BART, the long-awaited trains-to-airplanes extension will link riders to the Bay Area's largest airport.

"This connection to the airport changes the whole region's relationship with BART," said Molly McArthur, community relations director for the extension. "To be able to choose to take BART to the airport begins to knit together a transportation network that is really the future."

By late December, BART estimated 98 percent of the 8.7-mile extension had been completed.

In the coming weeks contractors will apply the finishing touches to the stations as BART engages in serious testing.

While some of the earliest estimates had put the opening date in 2001, BART announced that it would finish it in time for Christmas 2002.

That did not happen. Testing has gone well but it has taken longer than BART had hoped.

Every step of the operation must be tested, retested and tested again, explained BART engineer Michael Callan. The contractor must certify to state officials that the extension will operate safely before it can open its doors to the public.

As many as 50 train operators, engineers, dispatchers and support staff engage in daily testing. Some of it's big stuff.

They ensure that every car computer talks to the main train

control computer in downtown Oakland. If they don't communicate properly, trains could collide.

Other tests involve passenger convenience rather than safety, such as whether trains stop at the platform markers. They flick the lights on and off. They check to make sure the train doors open and close.

"It's a very systematic process," Callan said. "We've been running BART for 30 years, so we know how the system is supposed to run. Here, we're testing everything to make sure it works like it's supposed to."

To the untrained eye, the stations appear nearly complete.

The 1-acre Millbrae station, which BART expects to be its busiest on the new line, needs a bit of polish to clear out the construction dust.

But behind the swaths of yellow construction tape, it's easy to see that this is not your mother's BART station.

Its sea-green accent paint and yarn-yellow structural beams and braces gleam under stormy skies in a style reminiscent of an airplane hangar.

Light permeates the platform through a roof of creamy Teflon-coated fabric stretched over the bracing. At the center of the station is a tiled compass rose, a design found on old maps.

With touches of art deco in its lettering, a clock that overlooks the front entry from a 50-foot-high perch and opaque glass blocks encasing the elevators, the complex has hints of an old-time train station.

Throughout the station, BART has placed works of local artisans. The crown accomplishment at

Millbrae, however, is the cross-platform connection between BART and Caltrain. It links the Peninsula to a popular rail line into the Silicon Valley.

Over at the airport, contractors were finishing the surface on the special, collapsing floor at the end of the tracks.

If a train loses its brakes, it first would hit a giant, hydraulic shock absorber. If that fails, a series of steel floor plates would collapse — one on top of the other — to create a wall.

The rest of the facility, adjacent to the international terminal and a large parking garage,

is nearly done.

The locked glass doors hold the maps and rules have been posted. Signs are up.

Just upstairs from the station, the airport's people-mover system derbies testing.

It's a race to see who opens first, but start operating, passengers have their choice of

Or they can walk from the front door open to the international terminal and a minute stroll to the terminal.



FINAL FLOOR POLISHING takes place in late December at San Francisco International Airport's BART station. Late in the agency said 98 percent of the 8.7-mile extension had been

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Westberg speculated that people were looking for an activity that was intellectually stimulating. Some interest in book clubs was the result of state libraries simultaneously doing programs revolving around John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" earlier this year.

Some groups struggle to attract members. The El Cerrito and El Sobrante library groups were started in late summer, but both have peaked at about eight members, mostly women. Peg Boettger, the volunteer who started the group, is looking for new blood.

"This has helped develop a kinship and feeling of belonging in my community for me," said Boettger, who started the El Sobrante group in August while

looking for volunteer opportunities. She's been with another book group for 13 years.

At El Cerrito High School, the popularity of its book club has no doubt been boosted by at least one teacher giving out extra credit for students who show up.

Several students said they attended at first for extra credit but

were soon hooked.

Freshman Kathlyn Alford, said she first started attending to increase her vocabulary. "I come more now for the books and debating. I like hearing different people's opinions," she said.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or alopez1@cctimes.com.

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rather than preserving the creek and the riparian (creekside) habitat, the project would fill in a portion of the creek and attempt to 'restore' it by methods that were largely disparaged by both experts and citizens," wrote Contra Costa Superior Court Judge Barbara Zuniga.

"This evidence conflicts with the general plan's 'high priority' policy of preservation of natural areas, and its policy to offset the loss of natural habitat with creation of a habitat of 'equal value.'"

Creek advocates have been making the same argument since they got wind of the project back in January. They objected to filling in and rebuilding the creek as well as cutting down and replanting oak trees.

"It was clear the developer never made any attempt to develop the property with a minimum impact on the environment," said Michael Graf, an attorney who helped lobby on behalf of creek advocacy group The Friends of Baxter Creek.

Lisa Owens-Viani, co-founder of the Baxter Creek group, said she wasn't opposed to development but wanted to see it happen in a smarter way. She said she hopes future developers will take note.

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or alopez1@cctimes.com.

Today's Real Estate in the East Bay by Marc Guay

A HOUSE OF CREDIT CARDS

Perhaps one of the most difficult positions we can find ourselves in: Carrying a big load of debt on our credit cards.

Why is this more difficult than carrying a big load of debt in a loan secured by our house? Truthfully, it isn't always...but it usually is. Credit cards aren't designed to provide you with wonderful long-term borrowing. They are the fast food of the lending world.

Here's a significant example that arose recently. A friend received his monthly payment notice from the company servicing one of his credit cards. In small print, the notice informed him that the interest rate for the card had been raised from 9.9% to 21.9%. And by the way, thanks for being one of our satisfied customers. Suddenly, the friend wasn't satisfied at all. He called, arguing that he'd never made a late payment to this company, which the company acknowledged. He was told, though, that his interest rate had been raised because a recent review of his credit record suggested he was a bigger credit risk than he was a year or so before. Hello?

The simple point we wish to make here is that many credit card companies can do this sort of thing. It's there, buried in the fine print of one of their many notices. But the interest rate on a mortgage isn't likely to leap around in unexpected ways. You know from the get-go what the rules are and, with most loans, the rules don't allow much if any change. And this, to our way of thinking, is just another reason it's so good to be a homeowner, and to have access to investment/medical/educational/business/opportunity loans with reasonable — and predictable — terms. For real estate assistance, call Marc at 280-2103 and visit his web site at www.marcguay.com.

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THIS SCENE is part of the Marcks Miniature Circus, which is permanently on display at Playland Not at the Beach in El Cerrito.

Playland

FROM PAGE A1

cheer up Marcks, who was going through a difficult time.

The circus scene depicts the animals, people, attractions and backstage of the real Sells-Floto Circus from the 1930s.

Tuck said he had no idea what to expect, but began inviting people to see the circus and got the idea to set up other mini displays.

At the same time, Tuck, the president of Circus Fans of America, was collecting circus artifacts and people were becoming interested enough in "Richard's Playhouse" to volunteer to set up other parts of it.

Artists have come to paint murals; parents with their children spent a day putting together the "brick" walls in the "Dark Mystery" room that houses pinball machines and ghoulish wall hangings.

A miniature Christmas and Halloween are now almost complete and plans are in the works to create a miniature Disneyland and San Francisco.

It's all in a maze of hallways stocked with so much circus memorabilia, games and miniature scenes, that it's difficult to take in all the details in one or two viewings.

"There's so much to see here," Tuck said, walking quickly to show another part of the building. "I realize it's visual overload."

Tuck's passion for roller coasters, circuses and amusement parks date back to his childhood in when, every birthday, he would convince his parents to take him to Playland at the Beach in San Francisco.

"For a lot of people it was the most fun thing around," he said. "It was the very first amusement park in the greater San Francisco Bay Area."

For about \$1,000 each, Tuck has managed to salvage a few of the artifacts from the old Playland, including a "Big Dipper" roller coaster car that occupies a space in his warehouse.

His warehouse has been dubbed Mini-Playland-Not-at-the-Beach in honor of the old one.

Tuck's own mini-playland is all the more impressive for being in the back of a nondescript office building. Inside, the offices look like any other, though circus posters and a midway game tucked in the corner hint at what's backstage, through a door in Tuck's own office.

Coincidentally, the circus-without-animals Circus Chimera has its headquarters in Tuck's building.

When Tuck bought the building in 1998, he said, he knew he would use only part of it for his business and the rest would be a workshop, though he never imagined what it would turn into.

He was busy with his company, Lander International, which was listed in Inc. magazine as one of the 500 fastest-growing companies in the country in 1998.

"Especially after the first year, the business was prosperous enough to afford to be able to do things like (the playland)," Tuck said.

But the playland's potential has led some to suggest bringing it to San Francisco and expanding it to include real roller coasters.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are being sought to help build projects at Playland-Not-at-the-Beach. No experience is necessary and children are welcome. People are also invited to take a tour of the playland, with no commitment to help out. For more information, call Richard Tuck at 510-232-4264 ext. 25.

Tuck isn't so sure exactly what he wants to do, but he knows he doesn't want to run another business and intends to keep his attraction free of charge. He also has been working with city officials and the fire department to bring the warehouse up to code so it can stay in the city, which he favors because he lives here.

He's been inviting the homeless, people afflicted by disease and others "who don't get social invitations" for a meal and a tour of the playland. And he wants to solidify that aspect by forming a nonprofit group, closing down to remodel the playland and having a "grand opening" next year.

"Thus far it's a secret," he said. "Nobody knows we exist yet, since we haven't opened yet."

KID STUFF

BARNES AND NOBLE, OAKLAND — "Kids Story Times," ongoing. Stories will be read in the Children's book area. Free. Thursday, 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. 98 Broadway, Jack London Square, Oakland. 510-272-0120.

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY — Free. Central Library, 2121 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-649-3964 or 510-644-6100 or www.infopeople.org/bpl.

CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER — A state-of-the-art facility uniting all science education activities around astronomy.

\$8 general; \$5.50 seniors and youths age 4 to 12; free children age 3 and under, free for all on the first Wednesday of the month; free weekends for telescope viewing only; \$4 parking. Tuesday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 3 and Jan. 4, 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Jan. 5, noon to 5 p.m.

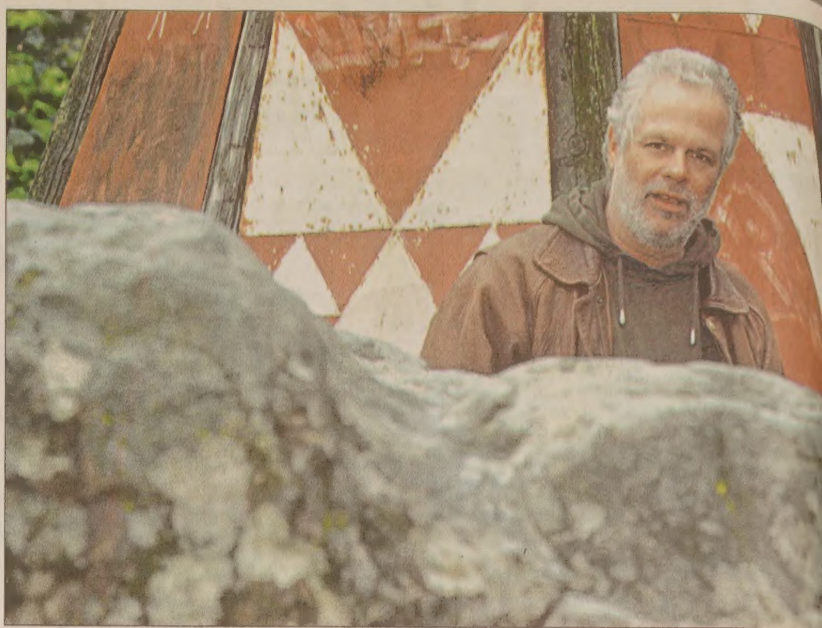
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CHILDREN'S FAIRYLAND USA — A fairy tale theme park featuring more than 30 colorful fantasy sets. Designed especially for children age 10 and under, there are gentle rides, a train, the "Peter Rabbit Village," puppet shows, story-telling and lots of slides and animals.

\$6 general includes unlimited rides, special shows, guest entertainers and puppet shows; free children under age 1. Through March 31: Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weather permitting, 699 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-452-2259, 510-238-6878 or www.fairyland.org.

HABITOT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM — A museum especially for children age 7 and younger. Highlights include "WaterWorks," an area with some unusual water toys, an Infant Tree for babies, a garden especially for toddlers, a child-scale grocery store and cafe, and a costume shop and stage for junior thespians. The museum also features a toy lending library. EXHIBIT — "Back to the Farm," open-ended. This interactive exhibit gives children the chance to wiggle through tunnels like an earthworm, look into a mirrored fish pond, don farm animal costumes, ride on a John Deere tractor, more.

\$4 general; \$6 children age 7 and under; \$3 for each additional child. Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday,



BERKELEY RESIDENT Leigh Marymore is trying to get the city of El Cerrito's support in preserving the area around the rock in Canyon Trail Park which has native carvings predating the Ohlone people.

Ancient

FROM PAGE A1

before even knowing what they were. He found the images he saw in his dream during a trip to the desert a few months later.

"It just stunned me that I would have that kind of connection," he said.

From there, he learned about the images, met people who knew about them and was drawn into the world of prehistoric art. Among the organizations that

cater to this interest is the American Rock Art Research Association, of which Marymore is vice president, and the International Federation of Rock Art Organizations.

The groups, including the BARARA, work toward conservation of, and education about rock art sites.

Marymore will give a talk about rock art and the Canyon Trail Park boulder at an upcoming Friends of Baxter Creek meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at 11780 San Pablo Avenue, in El Cerrito, #D.

Rock art, which can be both carvings (petroglyphs) or paintings (pictographs), can often be seen in picturesque natural areas. So Marymore, like the Friends of Baxter Creek, is committed to keeping the environment pristine.

Baxter Creek runs through Canyon Trail park and empties into a man-made pond near the boulder.

Friends of Baxter Creek president Maryann Aberg said she was unaware of the full significance of the boulder. Its description as an "Indian grinding

stone" on the Friends of Baxter Creek doesn't do it justice.

Marymore would like to see an interpretive sign explaining the boulder's significance and hopes the Friends of Baxter Creek advocates to

"This is just what we need because it's art, it's history and we have a responsibility to it for that reason."

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. 2065 Kittredge Street and Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. 510-647-1111 or www.habitot.org.

HALL OF HEALTH MUSEUM — A hands-on community health education museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center.

EXHIBITS — "This Is Your Heart!" ongoing. An interactive exhibit on heart health.

"Good Nutrition," ongoing. This exhibit includes models for making balanced meals and an exercise for calculating how calories are burned.

"Draw Your Own Insides," ongoing. Human-shaped chalkboards and models

with removable organs allow visitors to explore the inside of their bodies.

"Your Cellular Self and Cancer Prevention," ongoing. An exhibit on understanding how cells become cancerous and how to detect and prevent cancer. \$2. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1564 or www.hallofhealth.org.

LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE — EXHIBITS — "Elephants!" closing Jan. 12. An interactive tour of 50 million years of elephant history including modules for touch and feel, electronic multimedia and video and audio stations.

\$7 general; \$5 seniors, students, disabled, and youths age 7 to 18; \$3 children age 3 to 5; free children age 2 and younger. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Centennial Drive, University of California, Berkeley. 510-642-5132 or www.lhs.berkeley.edu.

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA — "The Rustler Ranch Mastodon Project." Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors are invited to watch staff members of the Natural Sciences Department prepare a nearly complete mastodon for exhibit. \$6 general; \$4 seniors and students; free children 5 and under; second Sundays are free to all. Wednesday

through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The month, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oak St., Oakland 94612. www.museumca.org.

OAKLAND ZOO — Includes a carousel, picnic grounds, shop as well as the new specific exhibits that are

room freely. \$7.50 general; \$4 seniors and children under age 2. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Park, 9777 Gull Lake. Interstate Highway 580, 632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org.

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Friday, January 3, 2003

Section B

ere's always more to
an offer than price



DIAN HYMER
House Hunting

The highest priced offer is not always the best offer. Before jumping to a conclusion based on price, be sure to review all the terms of the contract. If you receive a contingency-free offer, be sure that the buyers understand its significance.

confident of the property's value, so they didn't include an appraisal contingency. The only contingency was a five-day inspection contingency, and the offer promised a quick close.

HOME SELLER TIP: The highest priced offer is not always the best offer. Before jumping to a conclusion based on price, be sure to review all the terms of the contract. If you receive a contingency-free offer, be sure that the buyers understand the significance of making an offer without contingencies.

For instance, if the offer doesn't have an appraisal contingency, ask what the buyers will do if the house appraises for less than the purchase price. Make sure that the buyer is willing and able to put more cash down if necessary. You don't want to end up in a situation where the

See HYMER, Page B2



MARK ENGLUND/HOMESTORE PLANS AND PUBLICATIONS

The pool as art

A POOL CAN BE A CENTERPIECE OF ANY HOME — an attractive restful spot to which visitors are drawn. Guests being entertained around the pool can sample hors d'oeuvres while admiring the setting. As evening falls, light will sparkle and dance as it reflects from windows to water. A little fountain will create a peaceful sound and be a focal point. Surrounding plants and potted trees can add a tropical feel. There's value added to your home when you make plans for a pool area, and the spinoff effects make it more than just a place to swim. For more ideas, visit www.homeplans.com.

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Ann Mueller 510-339-4000

AND YOUR FRIENDS! \$849,000
You will feel at home in this delightful 3BR-3 BA traditional charmer. Nestled in quiet cul-de-sac, this updated home offers a new kitchen, spacious living, guest room, level garden. Parks and playground nearby.
Mary Jane McConville 510-339-8400

USE OF SPACE! \$599,000
Open Montclair contemporary has it all: large windows & skylights to watch the sun set, dramatic ceilings, peek-of-a-bath, huge home office, with lots of storage and an entertainment size family room with bar on the lower level.
Nahid Nassiri 510-339-8400

By Appointment



SERENE CANYON VIEWS \$549,000
This sophisticated Montclair home is bright and cheerful with walls of glass and a gorgeous view. A lovely remodeled kitchen and private master suite with huge walk-in closet opens onto personal deck, making this spacious home truly special.
Nahid Nassiri 510-339-8400



START WITH ME! \$485,000
I'm a superb Glenview district craftsman with lovely details within walking distance of shops, restaurants, parks and the SF express bus. I have been beautifully landscaped and offer lots of room for play in my private, fenced backyard. Once you see me, you'll want to make me your home.
Nahid Nassiri 510-339-8400

WESTSIDE ALAMO \$1,125,000
Over 1/2 level acre at the end of a cul-de-sac. Very private. Gorgeous home with vaulted ceilings, huge bonus room & recessed lighting. Spacious 2634 square feet. Gourmet kitchen with Subzero refrigerator. Dual pane windows, fireplace & oversized garage.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

By Appointment

NEW DÉCOR! POOL/SPA! \$974,900
Recent updates! New light carpets, paint, crown molding in kitchen! Large court street lot (approx. .24 acres). Approximately 3400 square feet... a 10+! Wood floors, Hunter Douglas, marble, built-in BBQ & more! Hurry... best buy in Danville!
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200



A MUST SEE! \$925,000
Beautiful upper Rockridge Colonial w/ cottage. Huge 12,000+ corner lot with bay views. Updated cottage/in-law bldg. has full bath. Plenty of storage and room for expansion. Hot tub in gazebo.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000

BIG PRICE REDUCTION \$869,000
Westside Danville home with 5 bedrooms and 3 full baths. Pool & spa with large side yard. Granite kitchen with tile flooring, granite wet bar and much more! Very close to schools, Iron Horse Trail and downtown.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

TASSAJARA RANCH HOME \$767,500
Spacious kitchen with island, eat-in area, hardwood floors, fireplace in family room & living room, one bedroom down plus 1 full bath, extra large closets in master, jack & jill bathroom, very private large lot with patio & beautiful landscaping. Walk to pool/clubhouse, Blackhawk Plaza and park.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

By Appointment

GREAT LOCATION \$549,900
Desired Rudgegar Estates. 3BD, 2.5 BA, 2000+ square feet, end unit with deck on charming and private yard, fireplace, formal living & dining, family room and bright customized kitchen, new doors, vaulted ceilings.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

HUGE FLAT LOT \$499,950
Fruit trees, iron gazebo & RV access on this pie-shaped cul-de-sac. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1600 square feet, new windows, doors and seller will credit for a new roof! Close to Larkey Park, schools and BART.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200



VICTORIAN FIXER \$489,000
Two buildings on one large lot. Additional studio in rear of duplex with expansion possibilities.
Ken Nwokedi 510-339-4000



1920'S MEDITERRANEAN \$449,000
Spacious 3/2 New bath, Mahogany trim, custom kitchen, rumpus & utility rooms. Large yard.
Earle Shenk 510-339-4000

By Appointment

ADORABLE! \$415,000
Almost new 3 bedroom, 2 bath detached home with new roof, newer carpet, tile floor, baseboards, crown molding, recessed lighting, designer paint, sod & sprinkler system. Eat-in kitchen, 2-car garage, possible side yard access and large backyard.
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200

LAKE MERRIT BUNGALOW \$368,000
Charming 2+ / 1+ close to lake, shops, transportation, yard garage needs TLC. Could be a beauty fixed up. Drive by, make an offer!
Teresa Chan 510-339-4000

HOME FOR THE NEW YEAR \$360,000
Private Woodlands location in back of complex fronts to creek and greenbelt. Charming 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath with high ceilings, fireplace, sky light, neutral décor & 2-car attached garage. A very good value in a popular area!
Danville Better Homes 925-837-2200



HIGH-RISE CONDO \$270,000
Upscale High-Rise near Civic Center at Opera Plaza. Fully equipped gym, pool, sauna, racquetball. Convenient to theatres, restaurants, shops parking \$170/mo. Antique rose marble interior.
Rosemary Greene 510-339-4000

ONLY THE HARDY... \$199,500
Should consider this 2BR. Starter home. Bring your hammer and determination to make this house a home again.
Maria Sinclair 510-339-8400

Our offices offer RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES - contact Anna Jensen for further information - 510-339-8400

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Urethane millwork goods work well for baths, kitchens and porches

STYLE SOLUTIONS

Builders, remodelers and homeowners frustrated with decaying wood moldings in high humidity areas of the home are turning to urethane millwork products for decorative touches in bathrooms and kitchens. Due to the closed cell structure of high-density urethane, water can not penetrate or be absorbed in urethane millwork products, so the products resist decay, twisting and cupping. Manufactured from precision molded urethane, Style Solutions' products are lightweight and come double-primed with a white UV protective primer. The durable pieces can be painted, faux painted and marbled to provide custom looks throughout the home.

Bathroom upgrades

For people wishing to add decorative touches to the bath areas of the home, a shower stall, bath tub or whirlpool can easily be upgraded by installing urethane pilasters on both sides and overhead. Window panels trimmed with molding make an ideal tub enclosure.

Moisture does not cause a negative reaction for urethane millwork. Next, add a wall niche either inside the bathtub area or on an accent wall in the bathroom. Within the tub area, a wall niche can serve either a decorative or functional purpose such as holding shampoos, bath salts and soaps.

Also in the bathroom, moldings can be used to frame different shapes of wall mirrors. Arch moldings, key-stone and pediments can all add dimension to the mirror and the entire bathroom.

Kitchen enhancements

With steam and high moisture in kitchen areas from cooking, dishwashers and laundry equipment, urethane millwork products are a practical accent. Unlike wood products that can react negatively to steam and humidity, urethane millwork products are unaffected by these elements. Throughout the kitchen, decorative moldings, available in both woodgrain stainable versions and solid paintable pieces can be installed as chair rail, cornice and crown moldings to give the room a finished look.

Moldings range from simple two-inch tall pieces to elaborate built-up one-piece combinations as tall as 14 inches. Decorative mill-

work products including brackets, corbels and pediments can also be easily installed to the top of cabinets to accent wood cabinetry and present a more finished look to the room.

For a window treatment, these same brackets can be hung on either side of a window. Insert a dowel rod through the brackets and attach fabric for a fast and easy decorative window treatment.

Medallions come in both solid pieces and with the center opening removed for easily installation with electrical units.

The lightweight pieces are available in simple, elegant designs, or-

Used both as a decorative and functional feature of a home, a porch can symbolize contentment and comfort for many of today's homeowners.

"There a definite resurgence in porches in today's home designs," says Stephen L. Schoch, A.I.A., and principal at Kitchen & Associates in Collingswood, New Jersey.

"People may have busy lives, but they love the feeling that a porch brings to their home. We've seen a strong increase during the past decade in homeowners requesting all types of outdoor living extensions."

The escalating desire for homeowners to carve out specialty areas of the home for relaxation does not surprise Schoch.

Style Solutions had a variety of styles and designs for balustrades, posts and railings. Urethane balustrade systems are attractive and durable and are maintenance-free.

Density urethane resists termite and insect infestations and urethane porch systems come pre-primed with a UV-resistant coating.

All the structural pieces have steel rods in the porch posts and fiberglass throughout the rails to assure the sturdiness of the porch system.

In a 1996 survey entitled "What Today's Home Buyers Want," conducted by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), it is reported that 73 percent of respondents identified a front porch as a percent) and screened-in porches (57 percent) received similar positive responses from consumers.

"Outdoor living spaces are an important part of a home," according to Gopal Ahluwalia, researcher for the NAHB.

"It's clear from our findings that people want an extension of their homes to the outdoors.

I would expect when we conduct a follow-up survey on this topic that the numbers will increase even more from where they were four years ago."

New product options

Style Solutions now offers Metalon metal finishes on a wide variety of its products. A proprietary metal coating process, it contains over 95 percent metal and is cold applied to Style Solutions pieces. The upgrade finish option is obtainable on window trim, moldings, decorative millwork and entrance trim.

It's available in both a natural state that ages and weathers just like the metal it depicts, and with a lacquered coating that seals the metal finish and retards the aging process.

The Metalon option is available in a combination of eight metals and finishes. One of the features is that homeowners can easily install a ceiling medallion with a metallic finish to match the metal of their lighting fixture, like brass or bronze."

To learn more, call 800-446-3040 or visit www.stylesolutionsinc.com.



MOISTURE CANNOT penetrate or be absorbed in urethane millwork products, so the products resist decay, twisting and cupping.

nate Victorian-era patterns and contemporary patterns.

Porches

Comfortable and sprawling, porches have a history of being a place for family members to gather together and relax. While life may be hectic for most people, trends show that homeowners are eager to incorporate porches into their home designs.

spected, found defects and backed out of the deal a few days before closing.

Consider countering an offer that doesn't have an inspection contingency to give the buyers a short period of time to do inspections. This way, inspection related issues could be resolved early on.

THE CLOSING: If you're lucky and you receive an all-cash offer from a buyer who can buy without a mortgage, be sure to include a provision in the contract that requires the buyer to quickly provide proof of the funds required to close.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dian@Dianhymer.com.

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DAVID RATOOSH / KEITH CARROLL - BROKERS

Lois' real estate hints



LOIS HARRIS, REALTOR

When trying to decide how much you're preparing your home for sale, go the extra mile. Those extra touches mean extra and you know what that might mean the way to sell.

Lois can be reached at the Grand Lake office of Prudential California Realty, 510-834-2010; fax 510-834-2011; voice mail 510-287-2521; e-mail Lois.Harris@Prudential.com

What's in a mortgage ad?

I have spent over 20 years in the newspaper advertising business. I watch with fascination as ads that pitch snazzy, laboratory-tested, new-and-improved, best-deal-in-town home loans bombard us.

Mortgage ads are everywhere: newspapers, magazines, leaflets, brochures, (especially) radio, television and even billboards on bench stops to the great big outdoor signs. They are packaged as testimonials from satisfied customers, advice from famous sports figures and personalities, claims of rock bottom rates and fees or a totally new concept in mortgages. They all promise a quick, no headache loan application or virtuoso service (we'll wash your car while you fill out the application).

Believe me when I tell you that advertising is one of the most important components of any business. But it is imperative that every business present itself in an ethical and clear manner.

No matter the allure, however, the fact still exists that you are being influenced by an advertisement. Usually, the purpose of the ad is not to appeal to your common sense; it's to make money (from your money).

Is advertising information? I have always believed it was, especially when promoting upcoming events, new businesses, sales and products. Remember, the objective of a good ad is to present a point of view about a product or service calculated to persuade you to make that phone call or make a purchase. In some cases,

it's what's left out of the ad.

The information they haven't told you, is more important than what they are screaming at you. It's your responsibility to counteract this one sided view by comparing your needs and options with the ad's content and then filtering out what's useful.

HOOKS AND SCAMS TO AVOID

1. Is the offer too good to be true? Everyone wants a bargain. But consider the first maxim of mortgages: You never get something for nothing. For example, ads commonly offer "no fees or points." What's not mentioned is that the interest rate is usually higher when you pay lower or no points. In the end, that no fee, no point loan could cost you a lot more when you consider the higher interest that you will pay over the life of the loan.

2. Is this offer a bait and switch? This is the oldest tactic in the book of the unethical salesperson destined to grab your interest and then sell you something else. And most of the time the something else is not the best solution to your situation.

An example of this technique is to bait the exception; the exception being a loan that's only available to a small number of people because of qualifying restrictions. Then you'll hear "well, I have other loans, but they will cost you a little more."

3. Is the offer obtainable? That great rate that's advertised in today's newspaper is probably not available by the time you read



KAREN SENZIG
Mortgage Advisor

about it. It amazes me how many people I've mistakenly believe that rate has been published. It will continue to be published. Rates change nearly every most lenders, and the be assured of getting the is to obtain a written agreement.

4. Is an APR useful? An APR (Annual Percentage Rate) is required in mortgage ads if certain other information is presented, such as loan interest rate. It excludes charges, including interest points and fees, as an APR. The consumer will be able to compare loans to advertisement to another.

To be comparable, it must be calculated with assumptions, such as the same the loan term of the loan. Others be comparing apples to So, if the assumptions the APR was calculated, shown in the ad, ignore it's useless for your purpose.

As a final thought, it's idea to maintain a healthy skepticism. Many ads appeal emotions. When dealing gages, it's best to use

Karen Senzig can be reached at 510-339-8511, fax 510-339-8512 or e-mail ksenzig@aol.com

Harmless bacteria the cause of stinky hot water

Q: The hot water in my home smells like rotten eggs. It doesn't seem to affect everyone in my neighborhood, but shows up all over town from time to time. Our water company says what they are producing is safe, but that they can't do anything about the smell.

A: The problem occurs when the metal rod in glass-lined water heaters (used to improve the life expectancy of the glass lining) combines with waterborne sulfate-reducing bacteria (not harmful to consume), resulting in the production of hydrogen sulfide. The water is not dangerous to consume, but is difficult to swallow because of the odor.

Solution 1: Replace the magnesium metal rod (cathodic protection anode) with one made of aluminum if it is available for your brand of water heater. The aluminum rod produces 30 percent less current and therefore generates less hydrogen gas, while causing enough current to adequately protect the glass liner.

Solution 2: Remove the metal rod and replace it with a threaded plug. We do not recommend this alternative, however, as it will void the manufacturer's warranty.

Solution 3: Find the point of origin of the sulfate-reducing bacteria (SRB) and eliminate it. SRB is most prevalent in new water-supply pipes contaminated by soil during construction. The soil carrying the SRB eventually ends up as solids at the bottom of the water heater. A thorough flushing to remove the dirt, then a second flushing with a dash of chlorine, and finally a third flush to clean should do the trick. Hydrogen gas without the presence of SRB will go unnoticed. SRB is not so easy to remove if your water company pumps the bacteria into your home right along with the



MORRIS & JAMES
On the House

water. This will, in fact, be as increasingly water damage to continue to reduce or cause of chlorine.

Sulfate-reducing bacteria thrive otherwise. It can be advertised contaminated water supply by allowing reducing bacteria (not to other more dangerous bacteria) your water system at property (through your for example, when you anti-siphon sprinkler valve "backwash"). Backwash also result when a water your neighborhood is while your garden water in a muddy puddle.

Real Estate & Home

A Weekly Publication of Hills Newspapers

General Manager.....Shared

Editor.....Dennis Evans

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New Listing!

Welcome to this very popular "Golden Gate" 1 bedroom model w/many designer upgrades. Including custom built-in hutch, custom built-in entertainment center, ceiling fan, stained glass window, extensive closet organizer & custom built-in computer desk area. Also this charming sun-filled unit has hardwood floors and is located on the quiet & private side of complex. Offered at \$284,950



To arrange a private showing please call Denise Milburn 510-524-1700 x35 dmilburn@yahoo.com

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Would you like to get rid of your PMI?

Quite some time ago, I read in your column about getting rid of PMI (private mortgage insurance). That inspired me to try to get rid of my PMI monthly payment. I contacted our lender and they agreed to cancel our loan-to-value PMI. The PMI was below 78 percent. The recent sales prices of homes in our subdivision are about the same as we estimate we paid for it. I received a 10 percent credit. Then our lender said we must have had a payment record for at least 12 months. As our mortgage was 12 months old, that's immediate. The PMI was increased in home value due to (1) appreciation and (2) our new patio. The new rate is 6.5 percent. We have to keep our loan to refinance isn't it?

halves of the properties. Probate of your wills will then usually become necessary. To avoid this problem, you need a living trust to specify whom you want to receive your real estate and other major assets when you die. Be sure to deed your assets into the living trust. This is called "funding the living trust." For more details, please consult an attorney specializing in living trusts.

Is there any way to avoid mortgage prepayment penalty?

Dear Bob: Having recently married, my wife and I planned to sell our homes and move closer to our children. But we found out that the lender who refinanced my wife's home has a \$9,600 prepayment penalty if she sells and pays off her mortgage during the first five years of the mortgage. Is



ROBERT BRUSS
Real Estate Mailbag
Way to Tax-deferred Real Estate Wealth" is available for \$4 from Robert Bruss, 251 Park Rd., Burlingame, CA 94010 or by credit card at 800-736-1736 or www.bobbruss.com. Questions for this column may be mailed to the above address or e-mailed to robertbruss@aol.com.

Sell home before divorce to claim \$500,000 tax exemption

Dear Bob: My husband and I will be divorcing. He wants me to keep the house. We bought it in the early 1970s for less than you would buy a car today. If I sell the house after the divorce, my profit will be over the \$250,000 tax exemption and I would owe capital gains tax. Should we sell before the divorce to claim the \$500,000



INGR.D. WESTGARD, NORTH AMERICAN TITLE

THE LAST DUTY OF AN OUTGOING PRESIDENT is to provide advice and counsel to the incoming president. The new WCR East Bay Chapter president Patricia Bouie Hinds shares a moment with 2002 president George Johnson.

East Bay WCR holds 2002 inaugural

BY BOBBIE REID
CORRESPONDENT

Mellow music and a networking session kicked off the 2002 Inaugural of the East Bay Chapter of the Women's Council of Realtors (WCR). Outgoing President George Johnson of Ameristar Financial passed the gavel to incoming President Patricia Bouie Hinds of Classic Investments.

The luncheon event took place at Scott's Restaurant, Jack London Square, in Oakland. In addition to Hinds, the new officers include vice-president George Johnson, Treas-

urer Felicia Favroth of Coldwell Banker and Secretary Martina Wolter, also of Coldwell Banker.

Hinds commented that the Chapter's monthly meetings would be held at Scott's during 2003. The intent is to provide a central location for all its northern Alameda County members.

"This organization is filled with very competent and intelligent men and women," said Hinds. "I challenge each member to get involved and take the time to reach out and back. Go find that member who invited you to your first WCR event. Invite them to join you at our next

event. Please join me in my commitment to increase our chapter's membership."

Although Women's Council of Realtors began as a women's organization, men are invited to attend meetings and encouraged to join.

The chapter is affiliated with National Women's Council of Realtors, a professional development organization of over 14,000 members.

For more information on local meetings contact Patricia Bouie Hinds at 5510-834-0720. To learn more about WCR visit www.wcr.org.

Hire a licensed appraiser to confirm you have over 20 percent home equity. Then, after you pay each monthly PMI payment, sue your loan servicer in local small claims court for a refund. After a month or two of that, most loan servicers give up and cancel the PMI.

ged rid of your PMI. But this is a hassle.

is correct that the \$72 PMI premium is a total PMI premium. In your situation, where you have a 100 percent pure profit PMI company and an early waste of money for

there is an ineffective fee-requiring mortgage company that can't cancel PMI automatically on loans originated after 1999, when their loan-to-value declines to 78

However, for most home loans, PMI won't occur until about 78 percent of the mortgage.

years you have a nasty, predatory lender or loan servicer who successfully

several readers in similar costs. But the house was only on the market for 24 hours, my husband showed the house to the buyers, and they called the agent, who wrote the sales contract.

When she presented the purchase offer, she never disclosed she was a "dual agent" representing both seller and buyer.

After an argument, our listing agent reluctantly removed the \$250 from the closing statement. Lately, I am hearing about other realty brokerages imposing such fees. Is it true realty agents are starting to impose junk fees just like mortgage brokers do? — Jan A.

Dear Jan: Yes. If the \$250 marketing fee were disclosed in your listing agreement, which you signed, then it would be a legal charge in addition to the sales commission.

Congratulations on fighting it. If more home sellers refused to pay those last-minute marketing fees, sometimes called administration fees, realty brokers would stop trying to charge them in addition to their commission. A 6 percent sales commission is high enough. If a realty agency can't survive on that, they shouldn't be in business.

The new Robert Bruss special report "How to Exchange Your

there any way to avoid this rip-off? — Terry T.

Dear Terry: Please read the mortgage or deed of trust carefully. Many specify the prepayment penalty will be waived if the home is sold or if the buyer finances with the same mortgage company. If that doesn't work, beg the lender to reduce or eliminate the prepayment penalty. It won't hurt to ask.

Is a listing agent's \$250 "marketing fee" legal?

Dear Bob: My husband and I recently sold our second home. On the closing statement, in addition to the listing agent's 6 percent sales commission, there was a \$250 "marketing fee."

I asked our agent about this and was told it was for advertising costs. But the house was only on the market for 24 hours, my husband showed the house to the buyers, and they called the agent, who wrote the sales contract. When she presented the purchase offer, she never disclosed she was a "dual agent" representing both seller and buyer.

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The new Robert Bruss special report "How to Exchange Your

married couple exemption? — Cindy A.

Dear Cindy: Please run, don't walk, to discuss this important transaction with your tax adviser.

Internal Revenue Code 121 requires ownership and occupancy of your principal residence for an "aggregate" two of the last five years before the sale. I'll presume both you and your husband meet that test.

However, I see one little flaw in your tax strategy of selling your principal residence while you are still married, to claim the \$500,000 tax exemption. For a married couple to qualify for up to \$500,000 tax-free principal residence profits, they must file a joint tax return in the year of the home sale.

See BRUSS, Page B7

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\$799,000 • PIEDMONT
Great Piedmont home with level yard and patio. Close to Piedmont Ave. shops and Grand Ave. Quiet street. FREE info 24 hours. 1-800-525-3704 ID#3213

PENDING

\$439,000 • MONTCLAIR RETREAT
Village. Tranquil retreat, cozy living room w/ fireplace, exposed wood beam ceiling, large detached artist studio w/ dark room. FREE info 24 hours. 1-800-525-3704 ID#3331

SOLD

\$759,000 • HADDON HILL
Huge Colonial in prestigious Haddon Hill. Level yard, views of Lake and City, master bedroom suite, gourmet kitchen. FREE info 24 hours. 1-800-525-3704 ID#3333

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DAVE & CARLA HIGGINS
Double Your Expectations

A look around the East Bay real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Free Answers To Home Buying

Have you finally decided to buy a home? Is your New Year's resolution to find out how? Learn the answers to many home buying questions at "The Home Buying Answers Class" This free class is from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8. Senior Loan Consultant **Margie Lupo** of Vintage Mortgage conducts the class. To pre-register, call the "Answers Class" hotline at 888-629-0077 x8610.

Free Lecture Learning

The Building Education Center in Berkeley provides ongoing classes, lectures and events for the experienced and those new to remodeling and renovation. There are three free lectures in January. There are two lectures on Saturday, Jan. 18. "What You Need to Know Before You Build or Remodel" is a preview of the Homeowner's Essential Course, taught by builder **Glen Kitzberger**. Author **Skip Wenz** will present "Choosing to Add On: The Pros and Cons of Building an Addition." "What You Need to Know" with Kitzberger is repeated on Monday, Jan. 20. Contact **Sydney** at 510-525-7610 or visit www.bldg-edctr.org.

Workshop On Tax Savings

American Tax Professionals and American Vision Productions present "Tax Strategies Workshop One". Enrolled Agent/Audit Litigation Specialist, **Paul Kent** leads the workshop. The main focus is on small to medium businesses. The purpose is to educate, inform and involve the taxpayer in the process. Attendees will learn the latest strategies, how to formulate deductions and little known areas inside the tax code that can reduce taxes. The workshop is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, Jan. 10. To find out more or make a reservation, call Tax Consultant **Allan Huty** at 510-791-8962.

Inform Meeting in Alameda

The public is always welcome at the Inform Meeting. The Inform is sponsored by the **Alameda Association of Realtors**. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month. The next meeting begins at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 14. The location is the Garden Isle Community Center on Melrose Avenue in Alameda. The focus of each meeting is an invited speaker and the discussion of important real estate, economic and community concerns. The Inform is dedicated to helping Realtors stay informed about the real estate market, the community and issues that affect the economy. Agents are encour-

aged to bring information on new listings for presentation to the group. For more information contact **Remy Boyd** of AAR at 510-523-7229.

One Stop Service

Consumers can get one-stop service on the Prudential California Realty website. You can be pre-approved for a loan, obtain relocation help and get selling tips. Check it out at www.pruweb.com.

THOMAS NAMED CB VP

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage of Northern California announced that veteran attorney **Stephen W. Thomas** was named Vice President Corporate Counsel of Coldwell Banker. Thomas, who has been practicing law for 25 years, began his career with the California Department of Real Estate, followed by three years in the Coldwell Banker legal department. To extend your congratulations call Thomas at (925) 275-3000.

WANTED COMMERCIAL BROKERS

Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites Oakland real estate brokers to attend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee. According to Valva the group was appointed years ago, by the Oakland mayor to facilitate city sales and leasing. The committee's purpose is to help build Oakland. The next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 9, at the OAR Auditorium on Webster. If you would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

THE LUNCH BUNCH

Monthly lunch and learn sessions are a tradition at the Berkeley Association of Realtors. For 2003, there will be eleven monthly luncheons, on the last Wednesday of each month, with the exception of November (this one is on the third Wednesday). BAR is offering all its members an opportunity to join the "Lunch Bunch". Pay in advance for all the sessions. You are guaranteed a seat and never have to make a reservation. The first 2003 program is on Wednesday, Jan. 29. **Richard Goodman** and **Scott Levine** will present "Real Property Case Law". To join the Lunch Bunch call the BAR office at 510-848-4288.

A CHECK FOR ORAL LEE

The Oakland Association of Realtors Fund-raising Task Force set a goal for 2002, to raise money for the Oral Lee Brown Foundation. The goal was \$20,002. The OLB Foundation, created by Oakland Realtor Oral Lee Brown, raises scholarship money for Oakland's inner-city youth. The Task Force, at the OAR Inaugural presented Brown with a



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Credible Worthy

check for \$33,000. Keep on studying kids. College is in your futures.

BROKER'S LICENSE

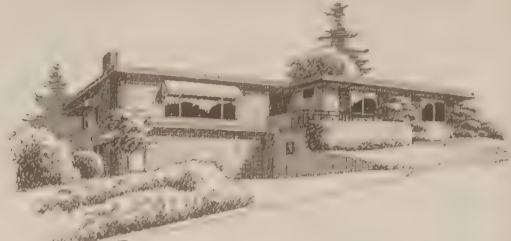
New state regulations now make it faster and easier to get a broker license. Attendees will learn changes and revisions, math shortcuts and test tips. Receive live class test preparation with instructor **Minnie Lush**. For more information call Executive Programs at 1-800-416-1996.

"e-BUYER" COURSE

The Real Estate Buyer's Agency Council of the National Association of Realtors offers an elective course. The course called "e-Buyer" is designed to help take the next step after mastering computer and Internet basics. REBAC is the awarding body for the ABR (Accredited Buyer's Representative) and ABRM

See REID, Page B7

New Listing in Redwood Heights OPEN SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2-4:30PM



4601 Stauffer Place, Oakland

Beautiful home with charm and style. Remodeled kitchen with breakfast room. Three spacious bedrooms, two and one half baths. All bedrooms are on the main level. Spiral staircase leads down to large family room. Tree views from the room. Attached two car garage. Close to public transportation and shopping.

Offered at \$539,000



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*Two year monitoring agreement required at \$20/month EFT (\$480.00). This system becomes the property of the homeowner. Sign an I.O.U. to return the system. System is not to be used in combination with any other offers. Offer not valid towards the purchase of an Odyssey LS security system. Must present advertisement to receive offer. Time and space limited. Some restrictions may apply.

Market Indicator*	
Last wk	This wk
5.750	5.750

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COMPANY	Loan Product		Loan Product		Loan Product		Loan Product		COMMENTS
	Rate/Points	APR/Lock	Rate/Points	APR/Lock	Rate/Points	APR/Lock	Rate/Points	APR/Lock	
A American Residential 800-566-8470 DRE#1430340 Fees=\$1379	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.760...45		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.675...0.000 5.940...45		15-yr Fixed 5.125...0.000 5.260...45		15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...0.000 5.480...45		Re-fi, Purchase, or Consolidate Now! Free Approval! M-F 9:30-5:00 Sat-Sun 8:30-5:00
A Superior Mortgage 800-591-4446 DRE#1242793 Fees=\$1089	30-yr Fixed 5.750...0.000 5.930...30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.180...30		15-yr Fixed 5.125...0.000 5.310...30		5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125...0.000 5.400...30		Open weekends. Credit problems OK. Apply online. See Habla Espanol! www.superior-mtg.net
AAA Mortgage 888-621-6200 DRE#1096146 Fees=\$1599	30-yr Fixed 5.600...1.000 5.680...45		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.918...45		15-yr Fixed 4.875...1.000 5.176...45		15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...0.000 5.441...45		Lower rates available. Great HELOC's too!
AccessBanc Mortgage 800-661-2765 DRE#08092684 Fees=\$1430	30-yr Fixed 5.875...0.000 5.937...30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.907...30		Jumbo Special*		Jumbo Special*		3yr/6mo ARM 4.250%, 4.115 APR; 0% Fee 5yr/6mo ARM 5.000%, 4.042 APR; 0% Fee Prepay & other restrictions may apply
A-Olympic Funding-Best Rate 800-640-5588 DRE#31197415 Fees=\$1820	30-yr Fixed 5.250...2.000 5.580...30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...2.000 5.790...30		15-yr Fixed 4.625...2.000 4.910...30		15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.875...2.000 5.210...30		Best Rate Promise! Open 7 days 9-5 S-J, E Bay & Peninsula Offices www.ofreloans.com 24/7
Bay Area Olympic Funding 888-833-1000 DRE#01197415 Fees=\$1658	30-yr Fixed 6.000...0.000 6.012...30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.375...0.000 6.388...30		3/1 ARM Jumbo* 1.850...0.000 1.863...30		25yr/6m JMB ARM 3.500...0.000 3.512...30		UP to \$8,000,000 CASH OUT 4.55% APR ARM, NO income verif, www.MegaJumbo.com All ARMs Int. Only. *Pot neg. am
California Mortgage Mart 800-947-4769 DRE#00406187 Fees=\$1758	30-yr Fixed 5.625...0.000 5.710...45		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.030...45		15-yr Fixed 5.125...0.000 5.260...45		15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...0.000 5.430...45		Check our website for updated rates & Loan Application -www.CaliforniaMortgageMart.com
Cal-State Funding 800-883-5363 DRE#00874441 Fees=\$2010	30-yr Fixed 5.625...1.000 5.820...45		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...1.000 5.940...45		5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...1.000 4.940...45		3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.375...1.000 4.570...45		Rates change daily. Call for latest rates
CMG Mortgage 800-958-5339 DRE#01170028 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.625...1.000 5.807...30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...1.000 5.848...30		3/1 ARM Jumbo 3.875...1.000 4.085...30		5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625...1.250 4.785...30		Open Sat & Sun. Quik Qualifier & stated income option available. Financing for people with less than perfect credit.
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DOC#603741 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.625...1.875 5.827...75		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...1.625 6.042...75		1-mo COFI ARM 2.450...1.000 5.349...45				Direct lender, 45 yrs experience, fixed & adjustable rates. *Pot. neg. amort. Apply online at www.downeysavings.com
FINet.com 800-641-7556 DRE#00921943 Fees=\$1717	30-yr Fixed call ...		30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...		-		-		Call us for your low credit and unique situations. 1-800-641-7556
Intercontinental Mortgage 800-848-6002 DRE#01347152 Fees=\$1575	30-yr Fixed 5.750...0.000 5.842...30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000...0.000 6.040...30		15-yr Fixed 5.000...0.000 5.151...30		15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.000 5.566...30		Apply online 24/7. Check website for more great rates. Rates updated daily
Lenders Northstar Mtg Grp 888-568-9060 DRE#1345744 Fees=\$2224	30-yr Fixed 5.625...1.125 5.818...30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...1.000 6.046...30		15-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.402...30		1-yr ARM Jumbo* 2.950...1.000 4.017...45		To \$600k - Pot. neg. Amort. Call for zero point quotes or check rates & apply online: www.nslmloans.com
Matrix Investment Corp. 800-366-8916 DOC#134018 Fees=\$4050	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.750 5.470...30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.375 5.600...30		15-yr Fixed 4.500...1.750 4.950...30		30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.600...30		Good & bad credit considered. Brokers welcome! Call us today! www.matrixinvestmentcorp.com
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE#00887582 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed call ...		30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...		15-yr Fixed call ...		5/1 ARM Jumbo call ...		Credit problems, bankruptcy, difficult loans our specialty, all gov't loans, 100% loans, credit lines, construction.
Northern Mutual Corp. 888-441-2600 DRE#01243581 Fees=\$2648	30-yr Fixed 5.740...2.000 5.981...30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...2.000 5.997...30		20-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.490...2.000 5.589...30				WOW!! Look at our Jumbo int. rates! We guarantee closing costs won't incr. at closing. E mail Steve@northernmutual.com
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE#01124581 Fees=\$1694	30-yr Fixed call ...		30-yr Fxd Jumbo call ...		5/1 ARM Jumbo call ...				Se Habla Espanol! 100% purchase loans. Apply at pacificwestfinancial.net
Premier Mortgage Group 888-389-6633 DOC#143036 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed 5.750...0.000 5.807...30		30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875...0.000 5.998...30		15-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.344...30		3/1 ARM 4.000...0.000 4.421...30		Apply online at www.pmgmortgage.com Now open Saturdays

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- ◆ Learn about each lender's products & services
- ◆ Email questions/scenarios to lenders
- ◆ Learn about closing costs and types of loans
- ◆ Hotlinks to all lenders' websites
- ◆ Check out our useful mortgage calculators
- ◆ Prequalify, preapprove or apply

Rates based on \$150,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$322,700) based on \$350,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but are not guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance. Lock-rate lock period. ARM=adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Ave 30 yr. fixed conforming with 0 points Fees are estimated costs and may vary by loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Fees" in "Current Mortgage Rates" section + contact each company for details. Copyright 2002, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

If you would like to be included in this Mortgage Guide, please call 781 270-1711

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\$244,950

2BR 2BA New paint and carpet, don't wait! Close to BART.
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Lynette Ng 510-662-8497

CENTRAL LOCATION/BIG

PRICE REDUCTION

\$309,000

2BR 1BA 1 car attached garage w/interior access, remodeled kitchen, new int. & ext. paint, landscaped yard, newer roof.
#02032367
Len Navarro 510-662-8476

SPACIOUS HOME IN

GREAT LOCATION

\$384,950

3BR 1BA almost 1100 sq. ft., wood burning fireplace, 2 car detached garage, corner lot, dual pane windows, newer roof, lots of parking. #02038105
Carolyn Dopp 510-662-8498

GREAT BAY VIEWS!

\$520,000

4+BR 2.5BA approx. 1755 sq. ft., 2 car attached garage w/int. access, hardwood floors, fireplace, backyard w/patio, large living room. #02025981
Ed Messner 510-662-8494

ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS

\$579,000

4BR 2BA almost 2000 sq. ft. Remodeled kitchen with granite counter-tops, state of the art appliances, jacuzzi tub in bathroom, some dual pane windows, marble entry, fireplace, garage w/interior access. #02036425
Jack Burns 510-662-8502

NEW LISTING W/PANORAMIC BAY VIEWS!

\$799,000

5+BR 3BA over 2800 sq. ft., large lot, 2 car attached garage, fireplace, formal dining room, family room, possible in-law.
#02039347
Bing Pierce 510-662-8560

BERKELEY

FABULOUS VICTORIAN IN GOURMET GHETTO \$1,400,000

6+BR 5BA (3+BR 2BA home w/3 separate charming 1BR 1BA cottages on a beautiful large lot approx. 12,112 sq. ft.). Well maintained property. #02039315
Bing Pierce 510-662-8560

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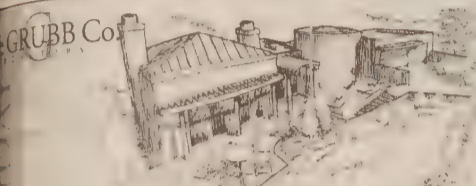
Montclair Better Homes Realty

I would like to thank all of my friends and clients for giving me another record-breaking year!

Your support and confidence in me has made all the difference.

I wish you all the joy and happiness of the holiday season with good health, peace and prosperity in 2003.

Best Wishes from Nahid and her team.



7044 Norfolk Road, Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This stunning Claremont Hills home features a fabulous gourmet kitchen with adjoining family room, South Bay views, four bedrooms, two and one half baths, formal dining room, two fireplaces, sensational master suite, three car garage, and expansive patios and decks. This house has it all!

Offered at \$1,275,000

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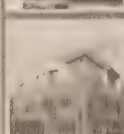
A sampling of our current listings:



Diamond Heights

Enjoy gracious entertaining with 20' ceilings. In your living and dining rooms and the fireplace reflected in floor-to-ceiling windows with downtown views. 4 bedroom, 3 bath two-level top unit.

\$699,000



South of Market

Not your typical SOMA loft! 40 Foot "Wall of Glass" Large double corner unit with 270 degree views. 2 bdms 2 bath plus den/sunroom. Gourmet kitchen; slate showers; stained concrete floors with radiant heat. Deeded parking. Wood burning fireplace.

\$669,000



Alameda Square

Grand and gorgeous 3-unit Victorian featuring one commercial unit and two large flats. Both flats have 3 bedrooms & two baths with eat-in kitchen, fireplaces in front rooms, lots of updates and period detailing throughout. Top flat has sunroom off kitchen and bonus/dollhouse attic.

\$749,000



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Jim Hedges
manager

afunionjim@aol.com

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News Year's Resolution

#1 Refinance mortgage before rates go up!

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2003!

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Mortgage Lending Officer



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Berkeley
\$8,750,000
1500 John Hudson Thomas
and home known as the "Spring"
Held by 3BR house & 2BR
on approx 3.2 acres. Tennis court,
pool, etc.
510.438.1495



Berkeley
\$1,199,000
Claremont Hills
2 BR 1 BA - 2 bath dog lover's dream
of country home built in '97 w/open
kitchen, hardwood floors, granite, etc.
510.339.4700



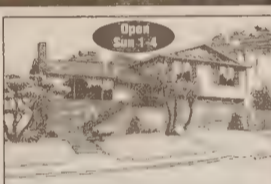
Berkeley
\$1,199,000
Claremont Hills
2 BR 1 BA - 2 bath dog lover's dream
of country home built in '97 w/open
kitchen, hardwood floors, granite, etc.
510.339.4700

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

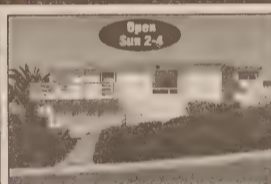
From Your Friends at Coldwell Banker



Berkeley
\$525,000
2 BR 1.5 BA NEW PRICE. Classy Medit fixer with Bay view & deep yard Hwd flrs, kiva trpic, vaulted ceiling, dramatic LR, spacious mstr. Bonus room, det garage.
Cheryl Cahn 510.486.1495 Ruby Ng



Oakland Hills
\$465,900
3401 Malcolm Ave.
4 BR 2.5 BA Sunny Traditional on corner lot; one owner! Nice floor plan FP new carpet, family room, level yard, 2-car garage.
510.339.4700



Richmond View
\$395,000
5781 Hazel Ave
3 BR 1.5 BA NEW PRICE! 1950's contemporary! Large airy & open Desirable corner lot, views, trpic, xtra lrg bsmnt, 2 decks, 2 car garage. EZ freeway/BART access.
Gene Della Maggiora 510.486.1495



Oakland/Pill Hill
\$2,500,000
371 30th Street
1 BR 1 BA New construction-26 units (22-1BR/1BA, 4-2BR/2BA), 9" ceilings HWF granite & steel kitchens, German & Italian fixtures, w/d hook-ups, garage.
Elena Stone 510.339.4700

OPEN SUNDAY

Berkeley
\$799,000
2-4
4 BR classic VERY Berkeley bungalow. Fixbl firplan. Lots of light & org craftsman details intact. Lofts, det off/aupair. Near Rose Grdn & Walnut Sq.
Bobbie Giarratana 510.486.1495

Emeryville
\$405,000
1500 Park Avenue Sal 1 - 5
1 BR 1 BA Partial Bay, bridge & SF views; top level, highly upgraded, spacious loft close to shops & restaurants.
Elena Stone 510.339.4700

Oakland/Pill Hill
\$2,500,000
371 30th Street Sun 12 - 5
1 BR 1 BA New construction-26 units (22-1BR/1BA, 4-2BR/2BA); 9" ceilings, HWF, granite & steel kitchens, German & Italian fixtures, w/d hook-ups, garage.
Elena Stone 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

Berkeley
\$799,000
4 BR 2.5 BA Classic VERY Berkeley bungalow. Fixbl firplan. Lots of light & org craftsman details intact. Lofts, det off/aupair. Near Rose Grdn & Walnut Sq.
Bobbie Giarratana 510.486.1495

Berkeley
\$619,000
3 BR 2 BA Classic ranch. Lovely & livable dream house next to Tilden Park's trails, golfing & fresh air! Spacious bay view lot. See it to believe.
Jeanne McHugh 510.486.1495

BY APPOINTMENT

Berkeley
\$249,500
1 BR 1 BA Quiet & secluded upstairs condo in small complex. Hardwood floors, garage parking. In the Elmwood. Convenient to UC Berkeley, shopping, transp.
Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.486.1495

Hercules
\$299,950
3 BR 2.5 BA Cute, cozy, spacious townhouse features 2-car garage, spacious deck/patio; corner unit; easy access to HWY 4 & 80.
Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

SOBRANTE PARK
\$259,000
3 BR 1 BA Wonderful updated home, front and back yards, tree-lined street; must see!
Terry Anthony 510.339.4700

Piedmont Avenue
\$245,000
1 BR 1 BA Light filled unit w/view of Oakland Hills. New flooring, freshly painted; assigned parking, storage lockers, spacious lobby; near shops & restaurants.
George Karsant 510.339.4700

Rose Garden
\$160,000
1 BR 1 BA Cute studio in great neighborhood; close to Piedmont & Grand Aves; above 580.
Terry Anthony 510.339.4700

Union City
\$425,000
3 BR 2 BA Well cared for home.
Reva Tolbert 510.339.4700

LOTS

Oakland
\$2,500,000
20 contiguous lots subdivided already, soils & surveys available.
David Eckert 510.339.4700

BUYER NEEDS

In the Berkeley or Oakland Hills, 4BR/2BA home up to \$1,200,000.
Please call Josh Whitmer 510.981.3027

Claremont/Uplands area. 3BD/1BA minimum. Prefer home w/light & some level yard/garden. Up to \$1.2 million.
Please call Maura Allen 510.981.3034

Preferably in Berkeley Hills & Thousand Oaks area. 4BD/2BA home up to \$700,000.
Please call Kim & Barbara Marienthal 510.981.3036

Light-filled contemporary in Berkeley. 3BD/2BA plus garden. Up to \$1,000,000.
Please call Nadine Oel 510.981.3033

Elmwood/LeConte School. 3+BR/2BA, sunny yard, fixer o.k. Up to \$700,000
Please call Sarah Shankman 510.981.3011

Rockridge or No Berkeley, 2BR or more, Craftsman or classic bungalow up to \$500,000.
Please call Bobbie Giarratana 510.981.3031

Got 15 minutes?

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need a professional real estate agent. Only if you are serious about buying a property. If you are not serious, you will waste your money and time. We are serious about helping you. We will be a pesky person who will free you from the truth and leave you alone. We will be a pesky person who will free you from the truth and leave you alone. We will be a pesky person who will free you from the truth and leave you alone.

- Capable of working hard
- A personality that will not bore or disgust you
- Some one you can trust

Create a valuable working relationship

Selecting an agent is just the first step. The hard work is just beginning. There are a lot of things your agent can do to help you find a home, ranging from writing letters to would-be-sellers to checking out new listings on a daily basis to networking with other agents. These activities will turn up properties that you may like. But...

Yes, there is a but. You must respond in kind. If you expect your agent to put in long hours searching for the home you want, then you must respond in kind. Return phone calls... don't monitor your agent's calls and pretend your not home. Be available to quickly view the properties your agent finds for you.

If you don't jump when your agent says jump, then in a short period of time you'll be reduced from a number one priority on the short list to that pile of names that are called every couple of months.

It is not easy buying a home. There will be inconveniences. And if the home you want is a little unusual or hard to find it could take months. During this time you must dedicate yourself to the task. The best idea is to set aside

a period of time — say three months — and during this time be completely available to your agent.

Don't plan a vacation during this period. Be ready to jump when you're told to jump. And keep your cell phone turned on. Remember, you'll get back what you give.

Every year I probably find a dozen fantastic properties — exactly what I was told to look for but I never got the sale because I couldn't reach my clients in time or they weren't able to see them soon enough.

In a competitive market, the seller will often reject offers that call for a sale contingent upon the sale of the buyer's home. It's truly not good business to tie up a nice property.

Getting It done

A lot of the clients I work with would not believe this article. They still think the right house will someday fall into their lap. House hunting, they would reason, is not that difficult. Obviously these people are not high on my list.

Winning in real estate takes effort — and resolve — and a full time commitment... and a hard working, knowledgeable real estate agent as a partner.

As the shoe people say, 'just do it.'

Dave Glubetich can be reached at 925-933-9189 or betich@cs.com.

To qualify for tax deferral, you must purchase a replacement "like kind" rental or business property of equal or greater cost and equity.

to avoid profit tax and acquire investment property near our new location in Florida. What do you think about Starker exchanges to avoid tax? — Evelyn H.

Dear Evelyn: Internal Revenue Code 1031(a)(3) Starker tax-deferred "delayed" exchanges are virtually the only way to sell your rental house and avoid tax.


To qualify for tax deferral, you must purchase a replacement "like kind" rental or business property of equal or greater cost and equity.

A potential drawback is you must designate the qualifying replacement property within 45 days after closing the rental house sale and complete the acquisition within 180 days.

More details are in my new special report "How to Exchange

Your Way to Tax-deferred Real Estate Wealth," available for \$4 from Robert Bruss, 251 Park Rd., Burlingame, CA 94010 or by credit card at 800-736-1736 or www.bobbruss.com. Questions for this column may be mailed to the above address or e-mailed to robertbruss@aol.com.

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BERKELEY \$1,250,000
Opportunity's Knocking at your door!
Residential income plus retail storefront space.
Lots of new paint, and upgrades. Property shows very well.
Busy Berkeley location. CALL!!!

HAYWARD \$485,000
Newly available Hayward. Beautiful and very spacious. 4BD/3BA home, 2-car garage. Near BART shopping, schools. Approx. 12 years young. A real pride of ownership home shows excellent! Call us today. Move-in right away! Priced at only \$485,000.

Behind on your mortgage payments?
Know your possible options! You may be able to:
- Negotiate a forbearance agreement
- Sell your property at fair market value
- Get quick funding from private lenders
- Consolidate/Reduce your debt
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Have you received a Notice of Default?

Sales

FROM PAGE B8

10 Moss Av #36 - \$150,000
1900 Mountain Bl #7 - \$450,000
425 Orange St #314 - \$269,000
7118 Orral St - \$180,000
245 Perkins St 406 - \$185,000
6252 Ridgemont Dr - \$585,000
5829 Seminary Ct - \$185,000
61 Sequoyah View - \$475,000
65 Sereno Cr - \$445,000
5969 Sherwood Dr - \$525,000
303 Stoneford Av - \$245,000
5509 Taft Av - \$640,000
8120 Utah St - \$378,000
9505 Walter Av - \$275,000
3056 Wisconsin St - \$565,000
5333 Ygnacio Av - \$339,000
810 York St - \$875,000

PIEDMONT

1131 Harvard Rd - \$761,500
38 Portsmouth Rd - \$649,000
35 Wwood Gardens - \$1,475,000
1135 Winsor Av - \$1,000,000

RICHMOND

138 11th St - \$222,500
101 20th St - \$350,000
664 30th St - \$305,000
642 34th St - \$305,000
649 34th St - \$325,000
418 42nd St - \$290,000
134 5th St - \$222,000
123 6th St - \$219,000
587 6th St - \$282,000
810 7th St - \$445,000
3510 Andrade - \$299,000
2830 Barrett Av - \$370,000
5236 Bayview Av - \$120,000
5050 Boardwalk - \$453,500
5267 Carriage Dr - \$478,500
2920 Cindy Ct - \$442,500
1715 Cutting Bl - \$255,000
5212 Gately Av - \$299,000
3144 Groom Dr - \$299,000
2708 Lowell Av - \$278,000
2866 Loyola Av - \$345,000
2935 Maricopa Av - \$288,000
5663 McBryde Av - \$400,000
5928 McBryde Av - \$421,000
99 Murdock St - \$324,000
632 Rock Rose Wy - \$424,000
3100 Roosevelt St - \$370,000
2815 San Mateo St - \$500,000
3975 Selmi Grove - \$427,000
3982 Selmi Grove - \$470,000
551 South 30th St - \$585,000
2427 Virginia Av - \$285,500
411 W. Richmond A - \$425,000
144 Woodstock Ct - \$586,000

SAN LEANDRO

351 Accolade Dr - \$432,000
355 Accolade Dr - \$446,000
357 Accolade Dr - \$459,500
2112 Bancroft Av - \$350,000
2173 Bradhoff Av - \$363,000
1611 Burkhardt Av - \$375,000

15603 Calgary St - \$367,500
15630 Calgary St - \$362,000
15976 Carolyn St - \$379,000
110 Castro St - \$280,000
2161 Clarke St - \$352,000
16826 Clinton Av - \$397,000
1093 Douglas Dr - \$300,000
14977 Ebb Tide St - \$455,000
138 Georgia Wy - \$366,000
16385 Gordon Wy - \$265,000
458 Juana Av - \$168,000
15925 Maubert S - \$262,500
365 Oakes Bl - \$430,000
1553 Peters St - \$389,500
1354 Pierce Av - \$375,000
14263 Seagate Dr - \$297,000
2165 Somerset Av - \$393,500
2064 Strang Av - \$345,000
550 Superior Av - \$455,000
2410 West Av 135th - \$508,000

SAN LORENZO

1765 Bockman Rd - \$355,000
62 Corte Eulalia - \$398,000
15319 Dermody Av - \$350,000
1647 Keller Av - \$423,000
16163 Penn Av - \$325,000
15629 Tracy St - \$310,000
577 Via Acalanes - \$380,000
1556 Via Buena Vista - \$320,000
57 Via Diego - \$200,000
1717 Via Lacqua - \$360,000
15947 Via Toledo - \$356,000

By the numbers

SAN LEANDRO
TOTAL SALES: 13
LOWEST PRICE: \$394,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$653,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$460,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$491,154

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$325,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$587,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$406,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$436,600

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 26
LOWEST PRICE: \$245,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,381,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$615,635

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$359,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$620,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$447,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$473,000

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$362,500

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$262,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$560,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$344,500
AVERAGE PRICE: \$369,100

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$570,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 79
LOWEST PRICE: \$100,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,450,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$371,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$456,715

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$649,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,475,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$971,375

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 34
LOWEST PRICE: \$120,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$586,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$356,191

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 26
LOWEST PRICE: \$168,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$508,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$368,173

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 11
LOWEST PRICE: \$200,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$423,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$355,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$343,364

This list is provided by California Resource, a real estate information company that obtains the information from the County Recorder's Office.

Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information.

All questions should be directed to CalResource@aol.com. Call 209-365-6663

KNOWLEDGE IN SELLING PROPERTY

You are ready to stretch your legs and upgrade to a larger home. But is now a good time to sell? And will you find the home of your dreams in the current economy? To best take advantage of the marketplace, you need a knowledgeable Realtor to guide you—one with extensive knowledge of the local area. Underneath your initial hesitation, you know what you are looking for. You have now found me.

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Realtor
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Voice Mail: (510) 433-2842
Prudential
California Realty
342 Highland Ave., Piedmont

Gallagher & Lindsey, Inc.
REALTORS

521-8181 523-1010

OPEN SAT & SUN 2-4
309 SANTA CLARA AVE., ALAMEDA. NEW LISTING! Updated home in great west and location! 2+ bedrooms, 1 bath, small deck off kitchen, some hardwood floors. Park like setting in back yard. \$469,500. For further information contact Bill Blawie, your 24-hour realtor working for you, 510-748-1108.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4
1317 EAST SHORE DR., ALAMEDA. HARD TO FIND IN ALAMEDA. Join me to view this "one level" family home. Great floor plan with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. \$595,000. Call Dorothy Franchi, 510-748-1131.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4
330 TIDEWAY DR., ALAMEDA. CALLING ALL BOATERS! Docks will be lengthened. Bring your boat by to check out the size. You also get a 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath townhouse with double garage. \$570,000. Ruth Mason, 510-748-1106.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4
3114 MINNA AVE., OAKLAND. Located on a peaceful street in Alameda area. This 2 bedroom, 1 bath home offers wide plank hardwood floors in the living room and formal dining room. Well maintained with a large back yard. \$289,000. View at www.RealtorInfo.com. Kellie McDonald, Honesty & Diligence, 510-522-4449.

932 MOUND ST., ALAMEDA. LARGE PRICE REDUCTION! Beautiful home facing the bayside. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Fireplace in living room, formal dining, double detached garage with bonus room. Special home to enjoy. Virtual tour at seefixbuy.com. \$399,000. Alice Gervin, 510-748-1116.

2217 SEA SHELL DR., RICHMOND. FANTASTIC "TIBURON" MODEL TOWNHOME AT BAYFRONT. Featuring dramatic living room area with high ceilings & lots of natural light. 2 full bedrooms upstairs, 1 downstairs with full bath. View on line at 2217SeaShell.com. Michael Studebaker, 877-865-2279.

2203 SEA SHELL DR., RICHMOND. PRISTINE YERBA BUENA MODEL. 2 bedroom, 2 full bathrooms, 2 1/2 baths, pool & spa. Just steps from Bay Area & Marina. \$440,000. Michael Studebaker, 877-865-2279.

1408 21st AVE., OAKLAND. 8 UNITS & 1 COMMERCIAL SPACE. All separately metered for water, gas, electric. 8 fenced parking spaces. 7 large 1 bedroom units and 1 large 2 bedroom unit, some newly remodeled. Moon Man, 510-747-1620.

11032 NOVELDA DR., OAKLAND. TOTALLY REMODELED INSIDE AND OUT! Landscaped front yard leads you to your new home with 3+ bedrooms, 1 bath. \$269,000. Rich Lai, 510-748-1188.

12951 NEPTUNE DR., SAN LEANDRO. ON SAN LEANDRO BAY. Stunning, versatile home that can accommodate extended family with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, as well as kitchen, a great living & dining room, a great room & a terrace. \$750,000. Ruth Mason, 510-748-1106.

SALES - RESIDENTIAL - INCOME - COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT - RENTALS - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Sales@AlamedaRealEstate.com Gallagher and Lindsey.com

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New Listing!
1526 Lexington Ave., Oakland
Allendale Avenue, Oakland
Well Park storybook English cottage
Remodeled kitchen, full bath, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, living room. All this close to park, shopping and schools. 2BR/1BA.
Call (510) 339-6460
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2-4:30PM
Charlotte Boyle
pacion.com

Weekend OPEN HOMES

Open Sunday, unless otherwise indicated

www.contracosta.com

ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1421 Union St. Open Sunday Harbor Bay Realty	3 - 2.5	3-4	\$675,000
2n Lagorio Ct. Open Saturday & Sunday Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.58A	2-4	\$669,000
1901 Hibbard St. Open Sunday Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.58A	3-4	\$598,000
1317 East Shore Open Sat & Sun, www.openhomesalameda.com Gallagher & Lindsey	380/2.5A	2-4	\$595,000
932 Mound St. Open Sunday, www.openhomesalameda.com Gallagher & Lindsey	380/2.5A	2-4	\$589,000
301 Holly Oak Ln. Open Sunday Harbor Bay Realty	480/3.58A	3-4	\$589,000
330 Tideway Dr. Open Sunday, www.openhomesalameda.com Gallagher & Lindsey	280/2.5 BA	2-4	\$570,000
3304 Encinal Ave. Open Sat & Sun, Main Island Kane & Associates David Gaudeman Lana Sazo 510-749-0780	380	3-4	\$550,000
137 Perfall Ln. Open Sunday Harbor Bay Realty	280/2.5A	2-4	\$525,000
2281 Powell St. Open Sunday Alameda Realty	3 - 80/2.5A	2-4	\$475,000
309 Santa Clara Open Sat & Sun, www.openhomesalameda.com Gallagher & Lindsey	2 - 80/1.8A	2-4	\$469,900
535 Palace Ct. Open Sunday Harbor Bay Realty	280/2.5A	2-4	\$429,000
1059 Foster St. Open Sunday, Bay Farm Sandhu - Zolenski, M. Zolenski 510-523-2367	280/2.5A	1-5	\$425,000

ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
3117 La Cresta Open Sunday Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.58A	3-4	\$425,000
1610 Pacific Ave. Open Sunday Harbor Bay Realty	2 - 80/1.8A	3-4	\$367,000
950 Shorepoint 22-1/2/2.20 Coldwell Banker	280/2.5A	3-4	\$298,000
9 Mastick Ct. Open Sun, Main Island Kane & Associates	180	3-4	\$228,000
12 Redondo Ct. Open Sunday, Main Island Kane & Associates	80	2-4	\$9-

ALBANY

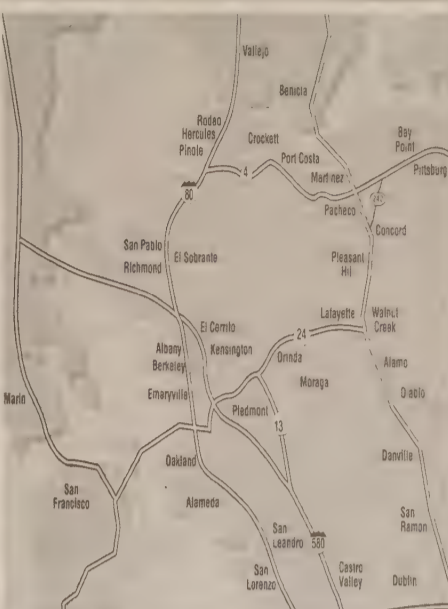
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
820 San Carlos Ave. RED OAK, Julie Cuevas, 510-289-2166	2 - 1/2/1.5A	1:30-4	\$459,000

BERKELEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1175 Kalms Ave (West- brom) Prudential California Realty, Dolores Thom, 510-534-2010	2 - 7/1 + Sun 2-4:30		\$499,000
1443 Russell Prudential, Jeanette Vento, 510-645-0211	280/1.5A	Sun 1-4	\$399,000
820 Bataan Ave. RED OAK, Jennifer Leach, 510-292-2004	280/1.5A	Sun 2-4:30	\$298,000

EMERYVILLE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4300 Horton #14 Prudential California Realty, Jackie Chan, 510-534-2010	180/1.5A	Sun 2-4:30	\$439,000
1500 Park Avenue Oakland/Piedmont, Open Sunday, Coldwell Banker	180/1.5A	1-5	\$405,000



Advertise in the Open Home Guide!
The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice,
The Journal & The Alameda Journal
Call 748-1688 or FAX 748-1679

HAYWARD

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
22734 Zaballos Ct. Open Sunday Prudential CA Realty	1 - 80/2.5A	1-4	\$389,000
			Mancy Blom 510-337-8670

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
5606 La Salle Ave. Oakland C21 Heritage R.E. W70-339-8500	800/4 - 1A	12-3	\$2,750,000
			Mohamed Jordon & Helen Nicholas
1 Las Flores Ct. Oakland C21 Heritage R.E. Helen Nicholas	480/4A	2-4:30	\$1,145,000
			510-339-9900
8615 Elverton Dr. Prudential-Montclair Hed Harnett, 510-338-9050	580/4A	Sun 1-5	\$945,000
661 Via Rialto Oakland Pacific Union	480/3.8A	Sun 2-4:30	\$915,000
			Christian Demmer (510) 338-1367
2345 Thackeray Drive Oakland Better Homes	480/3.58A	2-4:30	\$849,000
			Mary Jane McConville 510-339-8400
1774 Leimert Blvd. Prudential, Nancy Tamm, 510-645-0211	280/2.5A	Sun 2-5	\$828,000
11716 Cranford Way Prudential-Montclair, George Millones, 510-339-9290	480/3.5A	Sun 2-4:30	\$824,500
35 Weybridge Oakland Pacific Union	480/3.8A	Sun 2-4:30	\$799,000
			Dee Knowland (510) 338-1318
12 Yankee Hill Oakland C21 Heritage R.E.	360/2.5A	2-4:30	\$775,000
			Gayle Tanaka 510-339-8900 2290
2724-2726 Harrison St. Prudential CA Realty, Heather Sandford, 510-645-0211	480/2.5A	Sun 1-4	\$750,000
5760 Chelton Dr. Prudential-Montclair, Vicki Hagan, 510-338-9050	480/2.5A	Sun 2-4:30	\$599,111
426 51st Street Oakland Better Homes	380/3.8A	2-4:30	\$560,000
			Arnold Mueller 510-338-4000
247 4th St #105 RED OAK, Sara Garabedian, 510-339-2105	280/1.5A	Sun 1-3	\$539,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
4601 Steuffer Pl. Oakland Heights Pacific Union	380/2.5A		\$500,000
			Blanca San Mateo
4225 Midvale Oakland Pacific Union	380/2.5A		\$489,000
			Blanca San Mateo
85 Edgemont Open Sunday Harbor Bay Realty	280/2.5A		\$480,000
			Tom La
3401 Malcolm Ave. Oakland Hills, Open Sunday, Coldwell Banker	480/4A		\$480,000
			Barry By
694-695 31st St. Prudential CA Realty, Heather	580/4A		\$480,000
			Barry By
3720 Linwood Prudential-Montclair, Al Jarama, 510-338-9050	480/3.8A		\$480,000
			Barry By
3115 Sylvan Ave. Prudential-Montclair, Mary Bann, 510-338-9050	480/3.8A		\$480,000
			Barry By
3361 Birdsell Ave. Prudential-Montclair, Mary Bann, 510-338-9050	480/3.8A		\$480,000
			Barry By
2203 13th Ave. Open Sunday Prudential CA Realty	280/1 - 1A		\$480,000
			Barry By
3709 Loma Vista Open Sat & Sun Kane & Associates John Wang, 925-736-7051	480/3.8A		\$480,000
			Barry By
2257 High Oakland C21 Heritage R.E.	360/2.5A		\$480,000
			Barry By
371 30th St. Oakland/Piedmont, Open Sunday, Coldwell Banker	480/3.8A		\$480,000
			Barry By

SAN LEANDRO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
211 Garcia Prudential, Eric Sotter, 510-645-0211	280/1.5A		\$480,000

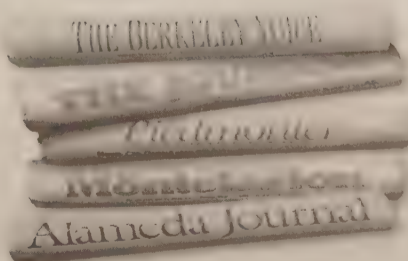
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Berkeley Victorian



Adorable Victorian, newly restored and upgraded, with a separate cottage in the rear. The house features formal dining room with bay window and fireplace, spacious eat-in kitchen, enclosed sun-porch with tile floor, two bedrooms, one bath & cozy attic loft with leaded glass window and skylight. Private, rear cottage is ideal for use as a studio, family room or office. Conveniently located near Solano Avenue and Westbrae shops.

1175 Kains Avenue
Offered at \$499,000

Open Sunday ~ January 5 ~ 2-4:30 PM

Dolores Thom
(510) 834-2010 Office
(510) 763-1710 Home Office
(510) 835-6080 Voice Mail



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★ Indicates Homes
Being Held Open

**OAKLAND
PIEDMONT**

★ Open Sun. 1-5

\$945,000

6615 Elverton Drive.
Striking 5 BR/4 BA
newer home with
incredible view in the
Montclair hills.

Heidi Marchesotti
(510) 339-9290



★ Open Sun.

\$828,000

1774 Leimert. Fabulous
Miller Warneke design
with Bay views. 3 BR, 2
BA, family
room/fireplace. Lovely
gardens, yard.

Nancy Taussig
(510) 845-0211

★ Open Sun. 2-4:30

\$824,500

11710 Cranford Way.
Great 4 BR/3 BA floor
plan, panoramic Bay
views and fabulous
backyard backs up to
open space.

George Millirons
(510) 339-9290

★ Open Sun. 2-4:30

\$599,111

5760 Chelton Drive.
New Price! New
Interior Paint! Light-
filled 4 BR/3 BA
Golden Gate view
home!

Vince Moran
(510) 339-9290

North Oakland

\$429,000

Renovated, vintage
1906, 3++ BR/2+ BA,
with new kitchen,
baths, and wood floors.

Gene Boomer
(510) 339-9290

★ Open Sun. 2-4:30

\$399,000

3115 Sylvan Avenue.
1st Open! Delightful 2
BR/1 BA bungalow on
prime street with
lovely backyard +
separate studio!

MaryDresser.com
(510) 339-9290

★ Open Sun. 1-4:00

\$375,000

2203 13th Ave.,
Oakland. 3 BR/1+ BA
Victorian w/beautiful
details! See tour:
www.pruweb.com/Nancyblom

John Abbott
(510) 337-8670

Big and Beautiful

\$350,000

3 BR/1.5 BA with
bonus, Jacuzzi, two
story, corner lot, over
1600 sq. ft.

Pam Aziz
(510) 834-2010

Maxwell Park

Condo \$240,000

Two story townhouse
with 2 BR/1+ BA,
attached garage and
large storage room.

John Wesley
(510) 339-9290

HAYWARD

★ Open Sun. 1-4:00

\$389,000

22734 Zaballos Ct.
Spacious home. 3+
BR/2 BA. Great
condition. See tour:
www.pruweb.com/Nancyblom

Kacy Carr
(510) 337-8670

EMERYVILLE

★ Open Sun. 2-4:30

\$439,000

4300 Horton, #14.
Rarely available loft in
desirable Emeryville
warehouse
conversion. 1614 sq.
ft., 2+ BR, 1.5 BA.
Great space!

Jackie Care
(510) 834-2010

**BERKELEY/
ALBANY**



★ Open Sun. 2-4:30

\$499,000

1175 Kains. Just Listed!
Adorable Victorian, 2
BR/1 BA + loft;
separate rear cottage;
house restored; close
to Westbrae shops.

Dolores Thom
(510) 834-2010

★ Open Sun. 1-4

\$399,000

1443 Russell. 2 BR
Craftsman with tons of
light and detail.

Jeanette Vento
(510) 845-0211

**CONTRA COSTA
COUNTY**

**New Home Under
Construction**

\$248,888

Custom 2+ BR, 1.5 BA,
large lot, Bay/Marin
view. Near Parkway &
Richmond Golf
Course. Additional
rooms can be added.

(510) 235-4795
(510) 527-9800

**RESIDENTIAL
INCOME**

8 Units in Berkeley
\$798,000

Very cute 8 income
units with all 1 BR/1
BA. Low maintenance.
Good tenants. Rents
are low with huge
upside.

Anna Lei
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(510) 527-9800

Victorian Triplex

\$389,000

2-Buildings: Front-2
each 2 BR/1 BA flats.
Rear-2 BR/1 BA
carriage house.
Separate meters.
Photos at:

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ALAMEDA
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CLAREMONT
510-845-0211

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510-527-9800

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510-339-9290

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510-428-0900

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New Listing in Redwood Heights
OPEN SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2-4:30PM



4225 Midvale Avenue, Oakland

Spacious and sunny contemporary with three bedrooms, two baths on the main level. Soaring ceilings in the kitchen and adjoining family room/dining area. Large fireplace in the family room. Hill views from the living room. Beautiful random plank hardwood floors. Attached oversized two car garage. Low maintenance yard and patio. First time on the market. Close to public transportation and shopping.



Offered at \$519,000

Diane Earl McCan
REDWOOD HEIGHTS & LAUREL SPECIALIST
(510) 338-1352

PACIFIC
UNION
CMAC



RED OAK REALTY

www.redoakrealty.com

Homes Open Sunday

January 5th, 2003



OAKLAND \$539,000
2+1 - 2,400 sq ft loft with 12-foot ceilings in warehouse conversion near Jack London Square. Large windows, concrete floors, 2 parking spaces. 247-4th Street #105 Open 1-3



ALBANY \$459,000
2+1 - Lovely bungalow only half a block from Solano Ave. Sunroom, fireplace, breakfast nook, fantastic yard & bonus room with possibilities! 820 San Carlos Open 1:30-4



BERKELEY \$1,100,000
2/1 - Needs cosmetic dating but well located on quiet street of well established convenient location. photos: www.bobabart.com 920 Bataan Ave. Open

by appointment

BERKELEY

2/2 - Large, bright home. 1 car assigned parking; new paint & carpet, close to UC, Telegraph & College Ave. shops/restaurants. \$345,000
Res. Income - 2 buildings on one lot, 4 units in all-two 2bd/2ba, one 2bd/1ba, one studio. Located in downtown, close to everything. \$765,000
3/2 - New construction, freestanding house, loft-condo on 3+ levels. Private yard, skylights, vaulted ceilings. www.hearstlofts.com \$595,000

OAKLAND

4/2.5 - Brand new construction, architecturally designed, quiet Contemporary with Bay Area High quality throughout
2/1 - Classic Laurel bungalow. Formal living rooms, fireplace, garage, finished close to transportation & shops
Commercial Only Space - Approx 1,200 feet of raw studio space with roll-up doors. photos @ www.redoakrealty.com



BERKELEY \$1,150,000
3+1/2 - David Baker "Revenge of the Stucco" loft-style home with panoramic views. Easy living near Claremont.



KENSINGTON \$479,000
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SPORTS

• Friday, January 3, 2003 •

Section C

Cerrito girls capture title at Jamboree

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Williams said. "She and Analeise McGrew polished off Washington."

McGrew finished with nine points, seven rebounds and five steals and Chanzy Morris had six points. Morris and McGrew were named to the all-tournament team. Melissa Stallworth contributed six points and eight steals.

The Gauchos (8-4) came on strong in the first half, bolting out to a 24-15 lead. El Cerrito held a 40-27 lead at the end of the third quarter before Washington produced a rally in the fourth quarter.

"They exhibited some maturity," said Williams about the

Gauchos. "Washington made their run, and (the Gauchos) were able to fight their run off."

Last Friday, El Cerrito used a 34-point second half to blow open the game against Liberty and advance to the championship game with a 73-53 victory.

The Gauchos led 39-32 at the break. They outscored the Lions 20-12 in the third quarter and then 14-9 in the final quarter for the win.

Myleka Emerson led the Gauchos with 13 points. Morris and Marqueta Green each had 12.

El Cerrito put together a balanced attack to beat Castlemont 64-55 in the first round.

Four Gauchos finished with double-digit scoring as El Cerrito went up early and stayed in control en route to the victory over the Knights.

McCormick led the Gauchos with 14 points, followed by Stallworth's 13 points. Morris and McGrew each had eight rebounds to go along with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Stallworth, McCormick, and McGrew all hit 3-pointers for the Gauchos, along with teammates Rosezetta Reed and Green.

St. Mary's: Jenna Nicholson hadn't made a shot all night. She'd taken two shots, maybe. But Nicholson, an Amador Valley High School guard, hit perhaps the biggest shot of the night with 1 minute, 19 seconds re-

maining in the Emerald Division championship game of the West Coast Jamboree.

Nicholson's bucket, her only one of the night, gave the Dons a lead that they would not relinquish, and they held on to beat St. Mary's 58-51 on Saturday night.

With the score 51-51, Nicholson drained a 3-pointer from the right wing. Seconds later, freshman Sara VanderHorst came up with a steal and converted the layup for a 56-51 advantage.

The lead changed hands numerous times. St. Mary's (5-5) took a 45-40 lead with 6:03 to go when Christina Johnson hit a jumper from the top of the key.

See GIRLS, Page 2



MARQUETA GREEN of El Cerrito drives past Liberty's Brittney Allen at the West Coast Jamboree.

A LOOK BACK AT 2002

Wonderful seasons for Bay teams

A great sports year for the Bay Area — unless you were a coach or manager.

It was the year of the fish is appropriate since it beat Stanford in the



NEIL HAYES
Staff columnist

Golden swapped pirate for a late-night phone in the Buccaneers. He wanted to go "home" to Bay but what he really was to get "away" from

is chose not to resign Baker after he led to its first World Series. Billy Beane put Howe to the Mets of sunflower seeds assistant traveling secretary be named later.

Winters was relieved with the Warriors, thousands of Bay fans to ask: "Who's Darryl Sutter in San Jose for to compensate for manager's mistakes.

There would be so much cleaning out during a year in the Raiders, 49ers, Giants and Sharks all add to the postseason.

Can't As, Sharks and can only hope things as well for them as they in the Raiders, who have not themselves for a Super run under Bill Callahan. The lasting images and last from 2002:

ing image: It's a kaleidoscope of images, actually. Hitting snow, the screaming, Greg Biekert pouncing on Brady's fumble and

NEIL HAYES, Page 2



BARRY BONDS and the Giants went to their first World Series in 13 years and came within eight outs of winning their first title in San Francisco.

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Panthers come up big in Modesto

■ St. Mary's boys claim Bronze Division title with a 65-55 win over Sheldon-Sacramento

STAFF REPORT

Simon Knight scored 20 points as the Panthers claimed the Bronze Division championship of the Modesto Christian Tournament with a 65-55 victory over Sheldon-Sacramento on Saturday.

St. Mary's (8-6) trailed 23-20 after a fast-paced first quarter, but eventually wore down the Huskies with its strong defense. Trailing by as much as 10 in the third quarter, the Panthers went on a 16-2 run and then held Sheldon to six points in the fourth quarter.

"We rode it all the way until the end," St. Mary's coach Manny Nodar said. "We just suffocated them. We won it with defense."

Ed Wright and Jordan Thurston each scored 14 for the Panthers.

St. Mary's reached the title game by defeating Jesse Bethel-Vallejo 79-59 in a semifinal game. Knight led the Panthers with 23 points, while three teammates also notched double-figures in points. Wright and Larry

See BOYS, Page 2



GARY PETERSON
Staff columnist

October slide is a faint memory

OAKLAND
THEY PASSED too much. They said they were going to run more, but they never did. They suffered through the kind of October that used to torment Barry Bonds.

They lost two overtime games in three weeks. They kept passing too much. Guys were getting hurt. Important guys. Sebastian Janikowski found himself facing a police camera yet again and said, "Will it save time in the future if I sign up for the Olan Mills plan now?"

They were old and getting older. They would fade, the way they always did. Shut-down corner Charles Woodson was limping around like a guy with three bad feet.

With Woodson ailing, their pass defense was suspect. Tim Brown had to start fielding punts. Then more defensive backs got hurt.

The Raiders survived October and began winning again, but as their season unfolded there seemed two dozen solid reasons to believe they might well fall down a flight of stairs come the playoffs. Then there

See PETERSON, Page 2

DLS is chosen No. 1 by USA Today

■ Spartans' Ladouceur is named Coach of the Year for the fourth time

STAFF REPORT

De La Salle High School's football team and coach Bob Ladouceur were honored once again by USA Today last Tuesday.

The Spartans, who went 13-0 this year to run their winning streak to 138 games, were chosen the best team in the country for the third consecutive year and fourth time overall.

Ladouceur was chosen Coach of the Year after guiding the Spartans through a difficult schedule. The honor was Ladouceur's fourth. He improved his coaching record to 274-14-1 for an ongoing national record winning percentage of .948.

Quarterback Chris Leak of Independence High in Charlotte, N.C., was chosen Offensive Player of the Year, and Antonio Cromartie of Lincoln High in Tal-

"We challenged them in practice. They responded really well. I give them credit for that."

— De La Salle coach Bob Ladouceur

lahassee, Fla., was named Defensive Player of the Year.

De La Salle entered this season with a lot of unknowns. The Spartans returned just two starters on the offensive and defensive lines combined and were without Parade All-American lineman Derek Landri and quarterback Matt Gutierrez, who graduated and moved on to Notre Dame and Michigan, respectively.

But Maurice Drew was back, as was a heralded secondary led by Damon Jenkins and Willie Gasper. Senior quarterback Britt

Cecil stepped in and directed the Spartans' veer offense, and new stars Jackie Bates and Erik Sandie emerged. De La Salle didn't skip a beat as it outscored opponents 540-102.

"We challenged them in practice," said Ladouceur, who watched his team struggle at times this year. "They responded really well. I give them credit for that. They understood they needed to get better quickly and they did that."

The Spartans traveled to Hawaii to meet St. Louis-Honolulu and prevailed 31-21, then focused on Long Beach Poly, the nation's No. 2 team at the time.

On Oct. 12, the Spartans left no doubt about the outcome as Cecil used the game as a coming-out party. He completed 12 of 17 passes for 237 yards and three touchdowns as De La Salle won 28-7.

The Spartans capped their 11th straight perfect season with a 42-14 victory over San Leandro, which was ranked 22nd in the country by rivals.com.

girls basketball

■ **El Cerrito, 4 p.m. Saturday** — The Gauchos girls basketball team defeated Washington 46-38 to win the West Coast Jamboree last

boys basketball

■ **Hercules, 7 p.m.** — The ACOAL season starts with a game between the Bay Area and Alameda County Athletic League powers.

■ **Albany, 7 p.m. Tuesday** — The Cougars (4-7) at the Eagles (2-10) will be a good start to the season with a win.

boys soccer

■ **El Cerrito, 5 p.m.** — The Dons, who are undefeated, face the Dan-

of the week

■ **McCormick, El Cerrito** — McCormick captured 11 rebounds and grabbed 11 rebounds in the championship of the West Coast Jamboree. Mc-

McCormick

Boys

FROM PAGE 1

Gurganious produced 14 points and Spartacus Rodriguez added 11 points.

The Panthers opened the tournament with a 74-54 loss to Kennedy-Sacramento. But St. Mary's then defeated Ripon Christian 70-31 and St. Turlock 65-41 before the semifinals.

Berkeley: The Yellow Jackets overwhelmed Burton-San Francisco with its depth in a 63-52 victory in the championship game of the Sand Dunes Classic.

Jack McSweeney scored 12 points for the Yellow Jackets (9-2), while Shaun Burl added 10 points. Burl was named the tournament's most valuable player.

A 40-point second half for the Yellow Jackets locked up a 60-44 semifinal win over Pittsburg. Dontae Hall led the Yellow Jackets with 13 points, all of which came in the second half. Shaun Burl followed with 10 points.

Robert Hunter-Ford contributed eight points and eight rebounds, while McSweeney had six points, eight rebounds and six blocks.

The Yellow Jackets trailed 20-18 at halftime, but outscored Pittsburg 40-26 in the second half.

Berkeley defeated Lick-Wilmerding-San Francisco 60-52 in the first round. The Yellow Jackets rallied from a first-quarter deficit to take a 33-28 lead at halftime, then built its advantage to 10 points in the third quarter.

Khion Tate, Kevin McGlothlen and Hunter-Ford led Berkeley with eight points apiece against the Tigers. Tate added 10 rebounds.

"McSweeney and Tate gave us a big lift in the second quarter," Berkeley coach Mike Gragnani said. McSweeney finished with six points and seven rebounds.

El Cerrito: Joseph Fort scored 26 points to lead the host Gauchos (7-3) to an 83-60 nonleague win over Piner-Santa Rosa. Tida Davis scored 16 points and Jerryck Owens-Murrey had 15 for El Cerrito, which scored at least 22 points in each of the first three quarters. El Cerrito took a 23-13 lead after the first quarter and held a 49-19 halftime advantage.

Last Friday, the Gauchos edged Kennedy 72-70. Davis paced the Gauchos with 16 points and Owens-Murrey added 14 points. El Cerrito bounced back from a 55-42 deficit in the third quarter by scoring 30 points in the fourth quarter.

Albany: Sam Laird scored a game-high 12 points with three 3-pointers as Albany dispatched visiting Stuart Hall-San Francisco 64-27.

The Cougars (4-7) managed to keep Stuart Hall to nine points or less in each quarter. Albany took a commanding 23-10 lead at the half and then pulled away in the third quarter thanks to a 23-8 run.

Hayes

FROM PAGE 1

then retreating to the sideline with a separated shoulder, his face a mask of pain. Then, when it was all over, and New England Patriots fans were screaming expletives and stunned Raiders players were walking numbly off the field, Steve Wisniewski picked up a snowball and playfully hurled it at a team employee.

Last word: There's no better way to remember a Raider great unlucky enough to have played during one of the darkest eras in franchise history. His career ended with another crushing loss, but there he was, a giant of a man, playing in the snow.

Lasting image: It was perhaps the most surreal three



COURTNEY DUNN of St. Mary's, center, tries to keep the ball from two Amador Valley players.

Girls

FROM PAGE 1

Senior forward Marissa Wyatt hit her third 3-pointer of the night to cut St. Mary's lead to 45-43 with just over five minutes left.

St. Mary's was without one of its biggest weapons for the final two minutes of the game. Shantrell Sneed suffered leg cramps and didn't return. She finished with 21 points. Meghan Leary added 10 points for the Panthers.

St. Mary's held a 17-12 lead

after the first quarter and a 28-26 lead at halftime. But Amador Valley (8-3) outscored the Panthers 32-23 in the second half.

The Panthers used outstanding defensive pressure from guard Johnson and good shooting from guard Nicole Thompson to earn a 40-35 victory over The Bishop's School-La Jolla in the semifinals.

Thompson scored 11 of her 15 points in the second half for the Panthers (5-4). Johnson played outstanding man-to-man defense in the game at Carondelet High School. As a team, St. Mary's

limited the Knights to six points in both the second and third quarters. After trailing 18-16 at halftime, the Panthers outscored The Bishop School 24-17 in the second half.

Leary scored eight points for the Panthers.

Sneed scored 20 points to lead the Panthers to a first-round 64-41 win over Vallejo. Nicole Thompson added 14 points for St. Mary's.

The Panthers were firmly in command, holding a 30-17 lead at halftime and outscoring the Apaches in every quarter.

hind the Los Angeles Dodgers in the wild-card race. It appeared as if the Bay Area representative, all right, but few would've picked San Francisco.

Lasting image: There are hundreds of snapshots in the Giants 2002 scrapbook: Kenny Lofton's two-out single to claim the pennant, J.T. Snow falling down and getting back up to make a key catch in Game 1 of the World Series, Darren Baker sobbing after Game 7, but the greatest singular moment in their postseason run was Benito Santiago's eight-inning home run in Game 4 of the NLCS. The ball hung in the air forever, prolonging the drama. When it finally landed anything seemed possible.

Lasting image: Barry Bonds, the last Giant in the dugout af-

ter Game 6, watching Anaheim Angels players celebrate after they staged one of the most dramatic comebacks in World Series history.

Last word: Giants manager Dusty Baker has been criticized for not managing with a great enough sense of urgency during the postseason, but he left little room for second-guessing in Game 6. Shawon Dunston, his choice as designated hitter, homered. He managed urgently and had a five-run lead with eight outs to go and his top relievers waiting in the bullpen. Baker was widely criticized for his moves in Game 7 — why didn't he take out Livan Hernandez sooner? Why use Pedro Feliz as the DH? — but if his players had delivered in Game 6 those questions would be moot.

BRIEFS

Coaching openings

The Warriors Youth Football and Cheerleaders Association is a non-profit public organization with a program designed to reach children in the greater Oakland area, including Alameda, Berkeley, Piedmont, Emeryville, Hayward, Oakland, Richmond, San Leandro, and other cities in the East Bay.

Its mission to instill within each youth the principles of community service, sportsmanship, academic responsibility, honesty, self esteem, loyalty, courage, cooperation and reverence to positively further their growth and emergence into society. For more information log on to www.east-baywarriors.org.

Cheer coaches and assistant coaches for teams are needed. We are looking for dependable people to work with the following age groups: Mitey Mites — 7-9 years Jr. Pee-wee — 8-11 Pee-wee — 9-12 Jr. Midgets — 10-13 Midgets — 11-15

Background checks are required for all coaches, along with CPR/first aid certification training. Those interested in working with youth could call 510-869-4760 or e-mail ebwarriors@yahoo.com.

Baseball clinics/camp

The Cal coaching staff will give hitting, pitching and catching clinics for players 9-17, Dec. 28-29. The clinics will take place on the Cal campus. Players may register online at www.calbears.com or www.oski.org. Call 510-643-2267 for a brochure.

■ Bishop O'Dowd High School coach Joel Kaufman, his staff and his players, will hold the annual Holiday O'Dowd Dragons Baseball Camp, Jan. 3-4. The two-day camp is designed for players 7-15 looking to prepare for baseball tryouts.

The camp costs \$95 and includes six hours of instruction, a Dragons T-

shirt, poster and information and online sign-up at www.eteamz.com.

Rowing

The Oakland Stroke Club is the premier junior rowing club in the nation, giving high school and girls opportunities to compete at club, national and international level. The club via e-mail at membership@oaklandstroke.org.

Adult soccer

The coed adult soccer Albany is looking for team individual players of all ages through advanced Cal Recreation Department 9283.

Golf

The Galbraith Junior Golf is open to players 7-15 learning the rules and basic golf skills.

The program runs from 4 p.m. at Lake Chabot Golf Course every Saturday.

Galbraith Junior Golf is the business community of the East Bay, Alameda, Berkeley, Piedmont and San Leandro involved through group and ship sponsorships.

For more information, contact program coordinator Catherine at 510-569-5662, or Michael Salem at oaklandboyz@aol.com.

Soccer teams forming

Alameda-Contra Costa Soccer League Class III boys team being formed by the following: Albany/Berkeley (510-643-2267), El Cerrito (510-223-8859), El Cerrito (510-620-0698), El Cerrito (KICK) and Mersey (510-643-2267). Contact these clubs directly to www.aacysl.org for rules.

Peterson

FROM PAGE 1

seemed about a dozen and a half. Then there were fewer than 10.

Saturday they squashed the Kansas City Chiefs 24-0 in a game that featured 30-foot swells and a vicious undertow. And they ran off the field at Game's end, all smiles and mudcakes, having clinched home-field advantage throughout the playoffs and eliminated every last basis for meaningful skepticism.

"Time tells how good you are," safety Rod Woodson said. "If we play on all cylinders, I don't think there's anybody who can beat us. Now we just have to do it."

Continue pounding the rock if you wish, but we here at the Round Earth Society are throwing in the towel. If there's a reason to believe the Raiders can't run the postseason table, we no can longer see it from here.

"I don't think anyone's come in here and beat us all year," running back Charlie Garner said. "We've beat ourselves."

And that could happen in the postseason. But at this point the Raiders have answered all substantive criticisms and retrofitted conventional wisdom.

They won throwing 65 passes on a cold, wet night in Pittsburgh. They won in a downpour Saturday by running the ball 60 times for 280 yards.

They lost so many defensive backs that they scared five teams into claiming Deion Sanders off waivers last week. Yet in the second half of the season they didn't allow a single 300-yard passing effort (by comparison, Oakland's Rich Gannon had four). Over that same time, they had twice as many interceptions (10) as touchdown passes allowed (five).

The Raiders continued to stack penalties like cord wood, but it didn't seem to hurt much. They won seven of their last eight games, going 4-1 in December.

"We talked all season about finishing strong," Gannon said. "We're just happy to see we've capped off the season," coach Bill Callahan said.

About that: The Chiefs were without the services of Priest Holmes, the one-man offensive

"Time tells how good you are. If you play on all cylinders, I don't think there's anybody who can beat us. Now we just have to do it."

— Safety Priest Holmes

assortment pack. Here's one so what? The Raiders' dated time of possession, such a ludicrous extra Kansas City had just sessions in the second

The Chiefs, we should need at least a tie to maintain their faith in making the playoffs. Yet Raiders became the first this season to beat their more than seven points

Hey, what stat do you best — that it was the first shutout loss in 1981 dating back to 1994, or was their first-ever shutout the hands of the Raiders' 85-game series dating to 1967? Think about it and know.

The Raiders take the total off all of the aforementioned achievements in the postseason (after a week great behavior). Better also take first and last that none of those accomplishments count for a flip once the playoffs begin.

"I think two years ago I felt even more comfortable we do now," Charlie Garner said, sounding a caution note when the subject of confidence was raised. "You like everything's hitting on cylinders, and it feels good there."

It'll feel better out there when Woodson comes back from a broken fibula. I hope that will happen in weeks.

"We've put ourselves in a good position," Gannon said. "Now we'll see what we can do with it."

Once upon a time it was easy to see the Raiders' it by virtue of any number of imperfections, real and imagined. After Saturday, they n't a flight of stairs visible miles.

SCOREBOARD

Girls basketball

West Coast Jamboree

Diamond Division
All games played at Pittsburg HS
Thursday's results
El Camino-Oceanside 66, St. Bernard-Playa Del Rey 31
St. Mary's-Stockton 59, Valley Christian-San Jose 38
St. Mary's Academy 52, Oakland Tech 39
Pittsburg 80, James Logan 71
Friday's results
Semifinals
St. Mary's-Stockton 61, El Camino 45
St. Mary's Academy 53, Pittsburg 26
Consolation semifinals
Valley Christian-San Jose 66, St. Bernard 28
Oakland Tech 76, James Logan 38
Saturday's results
Championship: St. Mary's-Stockton 64, St. Mary's Academy 41
Third place: El Camino-Oceanside 66, Pittsburg 27
Consolation final: Oakland Tech 53, Valley Christian-San Jose 50
Seventh place: James Logan 58, St. Bernard-Playa Del Rey 44

Emerald Division
All games at Carondelet HS
Thursday's results
St. Mary's 64, Vallejo 41
The Bishop School-La Jolla 51, Reno 43
Amador Valley 67, Palo Alto 58
Carondelet 68, Foothill-Redding 53
Friday's results
Semifinals
Amador Valley 59, Carondelet 58
St. Mary's 40, The Bishop School 35
Consolation semifinals
Palo Alto 53, Foothill 45
Reno 43, St. Mary's n/a
Saturday's results
Championship: Amador Valley 58, St. Mary's 51
Third place: Carondelet 51, The Bishop's School 44
Consolation final: Reno 63, Palo Alto 49
Seventh place: Foothill-Redding 61, Vallejo 49 n/a

Sapphire Division
All games at Freedom HS
Thursday's results
Laguna Creek-Elk Grove 50, Moreau Catholic 38
Highlands 71, Nevada Union-Grass Valley 70
Pleasant Valley-Chico 49, Fairfield 48, O'Fallon 47
Forest Lake Christian-Auburn 47, Freedom 32
Friday's results
Semifinals
Highlands 56, Pleasant Valley 37
Laguna Creek 61, Forest Lake Christian 42
Consolation semifinals
Fairfield 70, Nevada Union 56
Moreau Catholic 59, Freedom 41
Saturday's results
Championship: Laguna Creek 57, Highlands 34
Third place: Forest Lake Christian 62, Pleasant Valley 39
Consolation final: Moreau Catholic 57, Fairfield 41
Seventh place: Nevada Union 59, Freedom 31

Ruby Division
All games at Clayton Valley HS
Thursday's results
Merced 76, Alhambra 62
Burbank-Sacramento 57, Kennedy 56
Thurgood Marshall-S.F. 53, Tokay-Lodi 42
St. Patrick 59, Clayton Valley 55
Friday's results
Semifinals
St. Patrick 71, Thurgood Marshall 63
Burbank-Sacramento 54, Merced 61
Consolation semifinals
Tokay 54, Clayton Valley 52
Kennedy 60, Alhambra 53
Saturday's results
Championship: Burbank-Sacramento 69, St. Patrick 56
Third place: Merced 70, Thurgood Marshall 58
Consolation final: Kennedy 49, Tokay 34
Seventh place: Alhambra 66, Clayton Valley 60

Pearl Division
All games at Deer Valley HS
Thursday's results
Sacred Heart Prep-Altamira 41, San Leandro 31
Ponderosa-Single Springs 35, Hogan-Vallejo 33
Redwood Christian-San Lorenzo 43, Vanden-Travis 39
Deer Valley 90, Mission-S.F. 26
Friday's results
Semifinals
Sacred Heart Prep 43, Ponderosa 29

Deer Valley 53, Redwood Christian 46
Consolation semifinals
Hogan 53, San Leandro 38
Vanden 69, Mission 38
Saturday's results
Championship: Sacred Heart Prep 53, Deer Valley 39
Third place: Redwood Christian 81, Ponderosa 39
Consolation final: Vanden 58, Hogan 54
Seventh place: Nevada Union 59, Mission 47

Jude Division
All games at Ygnacio Valley HS
Thursday's results
Rincon Valley Christian 50, De Anza 26
Concord 51, Vacaville Christian 38
St. Bernard-Eureka 53, Urban-S.F. 48
Ygnacio Valley 46, Rio Vista 23
Friday's results
Semifinals
Rincon Valley Christian 47, Concord 24
Ygnacio Valley 47, St. Bernard 46
Consolation semifinals
Vacaville Christian 34, De Anza 31
Urban 61, Rio Vista 43

Saturday's results
Championship: Rincon Valley Christian 43, Ygnacio Valley 32
Third place: St. Bernard-Eureka 61, Concord 51
Seventh place: De Anza 44, Rio Vista 35

Topaz Division
Thursday's results
Berkeley 86, St. Elizabeth 42
Washington-S.F. 59, Edison-Fresno 49
El Cerrito 64, Castlemont 55
Liberty 53, Dixon 47
Friday's results
Semifinals
El Cerrito 73, Liberty 53
Washington-S.F. 46, Berkeley 45
Consolation semifinals
Castlemont 60, Dixon 44
Edison 81, St. Elizabeth 36
Saturday's results
Championship: El Cerrito 48, Washington-S.F. 38
Third place: Berkeley 66, Liberty 60
Consolation final: Castlemont 70, Edison 53
Seventh place: Dixon 55, St. Elizabeth 38

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NOW PLAYING

Below are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. The reviewers are Pat Craig, Randy Myers and Mary F. Pols, Times; Robert W. Butler and Chris Hewitt, Knight Ridder Newspapers; Glenn Lovell, San Jose Mercury News; Anthony Breznican, David Germain, Christy Lemire, Tim Molloy, Sheila Norman-Culp, Jocelyn Noveck, Ben Nukols, Malcolm Ritter and Matt Wolf, Associated Press; Bruce Westbrook, Houston Chronicle; Jan Stuart, Newsday; Stephen Holden, Dave Kehr, Elvis Mitchell, A.O. Scott and Lawrence Van Gelder, New York Times; Evan Henderson, Valerie Kulkenski, Fred Shuster, Bob Strauss and Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Daily News; Manohla Dargis, Kevin Thomas and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Nancy Churnin, Gary Dowell, Charles Ealy, Tom Maustadt, Chris Vogner and Philip Wuntch, Dallas Morning News; Christopher Kelly and Robert Philpot, Fort Worth Star-Telegram; and Roger Moore, Orlando Sentinel; Joe Batake, Sacramento Bee; Ann Hornaday and Stephen Hunter, Washington Post.

"ABOUT SCHMIDT": If you love Jack Nicholson, seeing Alexander Payne's ("Election") dark and rather mournful comedy should be high on your list. It features the actor in a state of mind in which we rarely see him: vulnerable, soul-searching and compromising in a

way that ordinary people must often be. He is Nebraskan Warren Schmidt, recently retired and widowed, and realizing how futile his life has been. Only one means to salvation: Stop his daughter (Hope Davis) from marrying a doofus waterbed salesman (Dermot Mulroney). — M. Pols. (R: language and brief nudity.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. A

"ADAM SANDLER'S EIGHT CRAZY NIGHTS": In this animated Hanukkah musical, Adam Sandler sets animation back 30 years, musicals back 40 years and Judaism back at least 50. All that in one movie, along with animated people and animals answering nature's call and moronic songs that mention various bodily functions and masturbation. Sandler stars as Davey, the resident jerk in a snowy New England town. Over the eight nights of Hanukkah, Davey comes to grips with the grief that made him so bitter, makes the life of a local volunteer a little better and salvages a relationship he wrecked in childhood by befriending the son of an old flame. Actually, the film is just an excuse to release Sandler's third installment in his "Chanukah Song." No, it isn't really in the movie. It just plays under the closing credits, which don't come nearly soon enough. — R. Moore. (PG-13: frequent crude and sexual humor, drinking and brief drug references.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. D

"ADAPTATION": This latest collaboration from director Spike Jonze and screenwriter Charlie Kaufman, the "Being John Malkovich" team, is a heady, happy jumble of thought and storytelling, an insane comic undertaking that ultimately coheres into a sane and breathtakingly creative film. Ostensibly, it's about adapting Susan Orlean's book, "The Orchid Thief," to film with Nicolas Cage doing double duty as the tortured screenwriter and his more successful twin brother. Add to this Meryl Streep as the author, doing shockingly un-Streepian things, and an Oscar-worthy performance by Chris Cooper ("Lone Star"). — M. Pols. (R: language, sexuality, some drug use and violent images.) 1 hour, 52 minutes. A

"ANALYZE THAT": After the box office success of 1999's comedy "Analyze This," a sequel reunites mobster Paul Vitti (Robert De Niro) and therapist Ben Sobel (Billy Crystal) was inevitable. Vitti faces being crazy to get out of jail and ends up in Sobel's care. As sequels go, this one isn't half bad. Still, it barely stirs from the recliner to throw us a plot and clings all-too-timidly to the original's structure. But the rapport between De Niro and Crystal crystallizes. — M. Pols. (R: language, some sexual content.) 1 hour, 35 minutes. C+

"ANTWONE FISHER": "Good Will Hunting" joins the Navy in this real-life

story of a troubled but admirable young man who finds his better self with the help of the troubled but well-meaning psychiatrist he is ordered to see. It's formulaic and idealized, but there is real heart beneath this story's thick shellacking of lost man-child sensitivity. The fact that the real Antwone Fisher wrote the screenplay and that first-time feature director Denzel Washington can marshal his troops just as well as he deploys his own prodigious acting talents contribute mightily to this pleasing result. — B. Strauss. (PG-13: language, violence, children in jeopardy.) 1 hour, 57 minutes. B

"BOWLING FOR COLUMBINE": Just hours before they killed a dozen classmates and a teacher at Columbine High School, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold went bowling. Was there a connection? Is it logical to blame the sport or, for that matter, any single thing for America's violent nature? "Bowling for Columbine" doesn't have the answers, and really doesn't expect to find them. For documentary writer-director Michael Moore, the asking is what's important. Moore starts "Bowling" with some riffs on the state he grew up in, Michigan, "a gun lover's paradise." Next the film concentrates on the shootings at Columbine High in Littleton, Colo. We see chilling footage of the massacre from the school's security camera tapes, talk to "South Park" co-creator Matt Stone, once a Littleton resident, and find out that Lookheed Martin, one of the world's largest arms manufacturers, is headquartered in the town. What does all this add up to? Certainly nothing conclusive. Moore's approach may be scattershot, so to speak, but he hits some targets. — K. Turan. (R: some violent images and language.) 1 hour, 59 minutes. B

"CATCH ME IF YOU CAN": Director Steven Spielberg has pulled off a neat feat, with two cool movies in one year. He's likely to get more praise for the darkly futuristic "Minority Report," but the pleasure is all ours in this fleet-footed treat, based on a true story. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Frank Abagnale Jr., who began his career as a con artist as a teen in the 60s With Tom Hanks as the workaholic FBI man who pursues him, through bogus identities as a doctor and Pan Am pilot. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content and brief language.) 2 hours, 20 minutes. A-

"DIE ANOTHER DAY": Now in its 40th year, the franchise continues with the latest James Bond film. Starts strong with some tight action and clever Bond quips (look for "Saved by the bell," a classic). Bond is captured, thrown in a North Korean prison, then when he gains his release, accused of treason by M (Judi Dench). Temporarily an outsider, he must prove his innocence. The movie fuzzies out in the home stretch, despite Pierce Brosnan's expert handling of the role and the appearance of Halle Berry as the

latest Bond babe. — M. Pols. (PG-13: action violence and sexuality.) 2 hours, 12 minutes. B-

"DRUMLINE": This is a youth-market movie that is warm, fuzzy and entertaining, even if it isn't very good. Devon (Nick Cannon), a wicked snare drummer from Harlem, gets recruited into the marching band at Atlanta A&T. A cocky city kid, Devon immediately butts heads with the fundamentals-obsessed band director (Orlando Jones) and the ego-driven senior drummer (Leonard Roberts). Meanwhile, the dapper university president (Afemo Omilami) wants to win trophies, which have been going to the rival college. But let's get to the scenes that hope to rouse the most emotional response: The drumming is fabulous, and it's a treat to watch small children in a movie theater bobbing up and down to organically made music. The execution may smack of cliché, and the idea may not be fresh, but sometimes old ideas can serve us well. — C. Vogner. (PG-13: language, sexual innuendo.) 2 hours. C+

"8 MILE": A handsome version of the old American show-business dream story we all know and love so well. Eminem, displaying movie star charisma, stars as a character much like himself — a rapper who's trying to rise from a poor and rough background. We've seen this before — on "Saturday Night Fever" to "Flashdance" — yet "8 Mile" is so well made, you can't help but get carried along. — M. Pols. (R: strong language, sexuality, some violence and drug use.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. B

"THE EMPEROR'S CLUB": At a hoity-toity boys prep school in the 1970s, a teacher (Kevin Kline) tries to teach the disrespectful slacker son (Emile Hirsch) of a politician a better moral code. The movie's setting is so rarefied and stifling that all but the best-behaved may feel initially fed the urge to aim spitballs at the screen. Fortunately, the plot, based on a short story by Ethan Canin, takes a few non-Hollywood twists and leaves us with a surprisingly realistic and honest ending. Some of the supporting characters, including Embeth Davidtz as the teacher's love interest, are too obviously bits of padding for a slim story, but overall, a worthy effort. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sexual content.) 1 hour, 49 minutes. B-

"EMPIRE": An oft-told tale of drugs and power, with the inevitable rise and fall of a crime kingpin. This is a Latino version of a story that "The Godfather" told with Italians. Vic, played by John Leguizamo in full Al Pacino mode, is the thug with that special blend of street smarts, greed, opportunism and thirst for revenge. The movie is about the turf war between drug dealers, which it documents by piling on clichés — the mis-

understandings that lead to the baths, the petty feuds that the girlfriend who wants to go straight. All are given a good reason for us to see what happens next — strong violence, pervasive drug content and some sex. 1 hour, 40 minutes. C-

"EQUILIBRIUM": A dramatic movie that almost falls apart as bad-it's-good category. One stars as a futuristic policeman whose job is to enforce the new society: no feelings or emotions allowed. The populace is controlled by a drug called Prozac. The movie has reached the E level in our department. We are out there. Christian Knocks over the table, a whole new world of perfume, puppies, Balthazar, you know it, he is leading us against the powers that be. Watson co-stars, poor old M. Pols. (R: violence.) 1 hour, 40 minutes. D

"EVELYN": In 1953, Desmond (Pierce Brosnan), a doctor, played but very nice lady who loses his children after they are out on him. Under Irish law at the time, single fathers don't have the right of parental rights. Desmond is told that he is staying in Catholic orphanages, they're 18. He challenges with the help of a group of outcasts but appealing alone played by Aidan Quinn and Stephen Rea, and a maid (Julianne Margulies). A true story, the plot feels like a place, and there's some talk about the rays of the sun that all but the most sentimental movie is pleasant family fare. Brosnan, sporting his real hair, is cent, is both dandy and dignified. M. Pols. (PG: thematic material, language.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. C

"FAR FROM HEAVEN": Perhaps one filmmaker a year tries to make our mouths hang open. In the way of writer-director who last weapon we might expect, a Douglas Sirk-style wrought melodrama that repressed 1950s, complete Technicolor palette and a gracious Connecticut house discovers that her loving husband (Dennis Quaid) is actually tries to put her best pony but her perfect suburban life crumbling under the weight of air, albeit deliberately, the skirts of the movie. M. Pols. (PG-13: mature themes.)

See REVIEWS, Page 5

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Showtimes for Friday January 3

Alameda County

Act 1 and 2
2128 Center Street, Berkeley 510-843-3456
●Bowling for Columbine 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45
●Talk to Her (R) 11, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10, 10:15

Albany Twin

1115 Solano Ave., Albany 510-843-3456
●Frida (R) 10:45, 1:45, 5, 8:15
●Rabbit-Proof Fence 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:15

AMC Bay Street 16

580 Shattuck Ave., Emeryville 510-457-4262
●Adaptation (R) 12:10, 2:50, 5:25, 8:10, 10:50
●Antwone Fisher (PG-13) 12, 1:15, 4:15, 6:15, 7:15, 10:15

●Catch Me If You Can (PG-13) 12, 1, 2, 3:15, 4:15, 5:10, 6:30, 7:30, 8:25, 9:45, 10:45, 11:40
●Chicago (PG-13) 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30

●Gangs of New York (R) 12:15, 2:45, 3:45, 7:15, 9, 11
●The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13) 12:30, 1:30, 3, 4:30, 6:15, 7, 8:30, 10:15, 11

●The Santa Clause 2 (G) 12
●Two Weeks Notice (PG-13) 12:05, 1:10, 2:25, 3:40, 4:50, 6:10, 7:20, 8:40, 9:50, 11:10
●Wild Thornberrys Movie (PG) 2:20, 4:35, 6:50

California Theatre

2113 Kirtland St., Berkeley 510-843-3456
●About Schmidt (R) 1:15, 4, 7, 9:45
●El Crimen del Padre Amaro 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

●Personal Velocity (R) 1, 3:05, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
●Treasure Planet (PG) 1:45

Chabot Space & Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland 510-336-7300
●2001: A Space Odyssey (G) 8:30
●The Human Body (Not Rated) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30
●The Living Sea (Not Rated) 2:30, 4:30
●Mysteries of Egypt (Not Rated) 12:30
●To Be an Astronaut (Not Rated) 11:30

Elmwood 3

2266 College Ave., Berkeley 510-649-0530
●Women (R) 4:40, 9:15
●Harry Potter (PG) 6
●Mostly Martha (PG) 7
●Punch-Drunk Love (R) 5:15, 9:20
●Standing in the Shadows of Motown (PG) 9:10
●Filly (Not Rated) 7:15

Fine Arts Cinema

2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-1143
●American Graffiti (Not Rated) 7
●Two-Lane Blacktop (Not Rated) 9:05

Renaissance Grand Lake

3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 510-452-3556
●About Schmidt (R) 1, 4:15, 7, 9:45
●Catch Me If You Can 12:15, 3:15, 6:30, 9:30
●The Lord of the Rings (PG-13) 12, 4, 7:45
●The Lord of the Rings 11:45, 2:15, 4:35, 7:15, 9:15

Jack London Stadium

100 Washington, Oakland 510-433-1320
●Antwone Fisher 11:05, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:05
●Catch Me If You Can 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:10
●Chicago 11, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 8:20, 9:50, 10:45
●Gangs of New York (R) 11:15, 3, 6:45, 10:30
●The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13) 10:55, 2:40, 6:25, 10:15
●Maid in Manhattan 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
●The Pianist (R) 12, 3:20, 6:40, 9:55
●Two Weeks Notice 12:05, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10
●Wild Thornberrys Movie 11:40, 1:50, 4, 6:30

Renaissance Oaks Theatre

1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 510-826-1836
●Gangs of New York (R) 12, 3:45, 7:30, 10:20
●Two Weeks Notice 11:45, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:20

Parkway Theater

1834 Park Blvd., Oakland 510-814-2400
●My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 7, 9:45
●Star Trek: Nemesis (PG-13) 6:30, 9:15

Piedmont Theatre

4186 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-843-3456
●Bowling for Columbine (R) 11:30, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
●Far from Heaven (PG-13) 2:20, 7:20
●Frida (R) 11:45, 4:50, 9:50
●Talk to Her (R) 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-3456
●8 Mile (R) 9:20
●Adaptation (R) 1:10, 3:40, 6:55, 9:30
●Catch Me If You Can (PG-13) 11:30, 12:45, 2:30, 3:45, 5:30, 6:45, 8:30, 9:45
●Far from Heaven 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:30, 9:30

Showtimes for Friday January 3

Alameda County

●Frida (R) 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40
●Intacto (R) 2, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35
●The Isle (Not Rated) 12:15, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9
●My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2:50, 5, 7:15, 9:30
●Nicholas Nickleby (PG) 1, 4, 7, 9:50
●Splitland Away (PG) 12:10
●Wild Thornberrys Movie 1:20, 3:20, 5:15, 7:20

United Artists Berkeley

2274 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1487
●Chicago (PG-13) 11:35, 12:15, 2:15, 2:55, 4:55, 5:35, 7:30, 8:15, 10:15, 10:55
●Drumline (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 10
●The Lord of the Rings 12, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10:55
●Maid in Manhattan 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8, 10:30
●Pinocchio (G) 12:10
●Star Trek: Nemesis 11:30, 2:20, 5:10, 7:55, 10:45

United Artists Emery Bay 10

8330 Christie, Emeryville 510-420-0107
●About Schmidt (R) 12, 1:30, 3:30, 5, 7, 8, 10, 10:45
●Die Another Day (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15
●Drumline (PG-13) 11:30, 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10:30
●Empire (R) 5, 7:30, 10
●Harry Potter (PG) 11:55, 3:20, 6:45, 10:10
●The Hot Chick (PG-13) 3, 5:45, 8:30, 10:45
●Maid in Manhattan 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45
●My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
●Pinocchio (G) 12:40
●Star Trek: Nemesis (PG-13) 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8:10, 10:45
●Treasure Planet (PG) 12:15, 2:45

Central Contra Costa

Renaissance Orinda Theatre

4 Orinda Theatre Sq., Orinda 925-254-9060
●Catch Me If You Can (PG-13) 12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15
●Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 12:30, 4:15, 7:30
●The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13) 12, 4, 7:45

Renaissance Park Theatre

3519 Golden Gate Way., Lafayette 925-283-7997
●Gangs of New York (R) 12, 3:45, 7:30

Rheem Theatre

350 Park St., Moraga 925-988-3411
●About Schmidt (R) 1, 4:15, 7, 9:30
●The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13) 12:45, 4:30, 8
●Maid in Manhattan (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20
●Two Weeks Notice (PG-13) 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9:25

West Contra Costa

Century 16 Hilltop

3200 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345
●Catch Me If You Can (PG-13) 11:55, 12:50, 1:55, 3:05, 4, 5:05, 6:15, 7:10, 8:15, 9:25, 10:20
●Die Another Day (PG-13) 9:20
●Drumline (PG-13) 11:35, 2:20, 5, 7:40, 10:25
●Gangs of New York (R) 11:50, 3:25, 5:15, 7:05, 9, 10:35
●Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 11:30, 3:10, 6:50, 10:15
●The Hot Chick (PG-13) 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10
●The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13) 11:25, 12:20, 1:05, 2, 3:10, 4:10, 4:55, 6, 7, 8, 8:45, 10, 10:45
●Maid in Manhattan (PG-13) 11:40, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
●Pinocchio (G) 11:35, 2
●Star Trek: Nemesis 11:25, 2:15, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
●Two Weeks Notice 11:45, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30
●Wild Thornberrys Movie 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 7

San Francisco

AMC Van Ness 14

1000 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-922-4262
●About Schmidt (R) 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10
●Adaptation (R) 11:20, 2:05, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20
●Antwone Fisher (PG-13) 2:20, 5:20, 8, 10:50
●Catch Me If You Can (PG-13) 12:30, 4:20, 7:25, 9:25, 10:35
●Die Another Day (PG-13) 1:45, 5, 8, 11
●Drumline 11:55, 2:35, 5:25, 8:20, 11:10
●Gangs of New York (R) 11:15, 2:45, 6:30, 10:15
●Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) 12:30, 4
●The Hot Chick (PG-13) 7:30, 9:50, 12:10
●The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13) 11, 3, 7, 11
●Maid in Manhattan (PG-13) 11:30, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40, 12:05
●Star Trek: Nemesis (PG-13) 2:15, 4:55,

Showtimes for Friday January 3

Alameda County

●Two Weeks Notice (PG-13) 11:30, 1:50, 4:20, 7, 9:30, 12

●The Wild Thornberrys Movie (PG) 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7

AMC Kabuki 8

1881 Post St., San Francisco 415-931-9800
●Catch Me If You Can (PG-13) 12:40, 4, 10:20, 10:35
●Die Another Day 1:10, 4:30, 7:50, 10:50
●Drumline (PG-13) 1, 4:10, 7, 9:55
●Gangs of New York (R) 11:15, 3, 6:45, 10:25
●The Hot Chick (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45
●Maid in Manhattan (PG-13) 11:20, 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:15
●Star Trek: Nemesis (PG-13) 2:05, 5, 8, 10:45
●Two Weeks Notice (PG-13) 11:05, 1:35, 4:40, 7:30, 10:05

Bridge Theatre

3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 415-352-0818
●Nicholas Nickleby (2002) (PG) 1, 3:55, 7, 9:55

Castro Theatre

429 Castro St., San Francisco 415-621-6120
●Stalker (Not Rated) 1, 4:30, 8

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore St., San Francisco 415-352-0810
●The Pianist (R) 12, 3, 6:30, 10

Embarcadero Center Cinema

1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 415-352-0810
●Bowling for Columbine (R) 12, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15
●Far from Heaven (PG-13) 1:30, 4:10, 7:20, 9:50
●Rabbit-Proof Fence (PG) 12:30, 2:40, 5, 7:10, 9:20
●Talk to Her (R) 12:10, 1, 2:50, 4, 5:15, 7, 7:50, 9:40, 10:10

Lumiere Theatre

1572 California St., San Francisco 415-352-0810
●El Crimen del Padre Amaro (R) 6:30, 9:15
●Frida (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:30
●Intacto (R) 12, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45
●Pinocchio (G) 2, 4:30

Opera Plaza Cinema

601 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-352-0810
●Ararat (R) 1:15, 4, 6:50, 9:30
●The Isle (NR) 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:35, 9:50
●Personal Velocity (R) 12, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50
●Real Women Have Curves (PG-13) 12:45, 3, 5, 7:05, 9:20

The Red Vic Theatre

1727 Haight, San Francisco 415-668-3994
●24 Hour Party People (R) 7:15, 9:40

The Roxie Theatre

3117 16th St., San Francisco 415-863-1087
●Rivers and Tides (Not Rated) 6:30, 8:45

Loews Theatres Metreon

101 Fourth St., San Francisco 415-369-6200
●Adaptation (R) 10:05, 12:50, 3:50, 7, 9:50, 9, 11:30
●Antwone Fisher (PG-13) 10:15, 1:10, 4, 7:20, 10:20
●Catch Me If You Can (PG-13) 12, 3:40, 7:10, 9:30, 10:40
●Chicago (PG-13) 10:10, 1:30, 4:40, 7:40, 10:05, 10:50
●Die Another Day (PG-13) 11:10, 2:10, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10
●Gangs of New York (R) 10:30, 2:30, 6:30, 10:30
●Harry Potter (PG) 11:30, 3:10, 6:35
●The Hot Chick (PG-13) 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9, 11:30
●The Hours (PG-13) 10:25, 1:20, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25
●The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (PG-13) 10, 10:50, 2, 2:50, 6, 6:50, 10:10, 11, 11:40
●Maid in Manhattan (PG-13) 10:20, 12:50, 3:20, 6, 8:40, 11:20
●Star Trek: Nemesis (PG-13) 12:20, 3:35, 6:40, 9:40
●Two Weeks Notice (PG-13) 11:20, 1:50, 4:50, 7:30, 10
●The Wild Thornberrys Movie (PG) 11, 1:40, 4:20, 7

Loews Imax Theatre

101 Fourth Street, San Francisco 415-369-6200
●Lion King (G) 10, 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 7, 9:20
●The

Events

FROM PAGE C3

p.m. Parish Hall, 1501 Washington St., Albany, 510-527-9840.
SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA — "Spotlight on Strings," Benjamin Simon conducting, Jan. 11, 8 p.m. Guest artist: Gianna Abondolo, cello; Works by Handel, Lou Harrison, Haydn, Fritz Kreisler, Mendelssohn. \$24 to \$50 adults; \$12 students. Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 415-495-8608 or www.sfcchamberorchestra.org.

DANCE

EAGLES HALL ZYDECO CAJUN DANCES — Dance lesson, 8 p.m.; concert and dance, 9 p.m. \$11 to \$13; 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 415-

285-6285.

STARRY PLOUGH PUB — "Dance Class & Cello," Mondays, 7 p.m. Traditional Irish music and dance.

"The Starry Session," Sundays, 8 p.m. Irish traditional music and song led by Shay Black. Sliding scale.

For age 21 and over. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.; music at 9 p.m. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082.

OUTDOORS

REI BERKELEY — Lectures series. "Avalanche Safety," Jan. 7, 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Slide lecture on fundamentals: avalanche phenomena, meteorology, route selection, rescue techniques. \$20.

"Best Snowshoe Routes of Northern California," Jan. 9. Places to go in Yosemite, around Carson Pass and the Lake Tahoe Basin.

1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-527-4140.

Theater

FROM PAGE C3

Karen Finley's new one-woman show, "The Distribution of Empathy," opens Jan. 14 and runs through Jan. 19 on the Rep's Thrust Stage, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley.

Styled as a lounge-act, the new solo work tackles the life-changing events of the attacks and their surrounding taboos with equal parts sex, sorrow and humor. The result is a release, a cathartic experience created by a New Yorker about the conflict between post-tragedy vulnerability and the quintessential character of New Yorkers.

weavers in the form of dreams by Fu Dalu, and it is dangerous to cross her. Illnesses are visited upon women who do not follow the instruction of this demanding goddess.

After the fibers are combed and tied together on a loom, they are dyed in a three-step process similar to tie-dyeing.

Different roots, leaves and shells are boiled down to make the three basic colors of the weaving. In all, from the har-

vesting of the tree to the final dye, it takes three months to make a T'nalak.

In past times, the T'nalak value was recognized by those outside the community. A length of T'nalak could be used to pay tax in colonial times.

Now, in a wider global economy, the sale of these fabrics can be used to foster cultural survival; to keep the dreams of Fu Dalu alive.

Finley's last appearance Bay Area was in her one-woman show, "Shut Up and Love Me," at Theatre Artaud in 2001.

"Distribution of Empathy" plays at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, through Friday of that week; and at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, and at 7 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are \$30 for Friday and Saturday nights. All other performances are \$25. Seating is general admission. Call 510-647-2949 or 888-4BRITix or online at www.berkeleyrep.org.

A 'COLOSSUS' FOR

A.C.T.: Another West Coast premiere previewing next Friday and Saturday before opening Sunday for a run through Feb. 1 is "The Colossus of Rhodes," written and directed by Carey Perloff, artistic director of A.C.T.

It plays at the Zeum Theater in Yerba Buena Gardens, Fourth and Howard streets, San Francisco.

A group of displaced young Englishmen, lured by dreams of instant fortune in the late 19th century, set out to conquer the diamond industry of South Africa.

Allyn Burrows plays Cecil Rhodes, who organized De-Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd.,

the giant diamond-mining company. David Adkins portrays Randall Pickering, the man for whom Rhodes had a lifelong passion.

In a parallel love story, Paul Vincent Black plays Barney Barnato, an East End Jewish vaudevillian transplanted to a piano bar in Kimberly, South Africa. Kathleen Antonia, making her A.C.T. debut, is cast as Fanny Bees, a young African woman who finds herself romantically and dangerously involved with Barnato.

Tickets range from \$11 (previews) to \$19 to \$24 for regular performances. Discounts for A.C.T. subscribers. Tickets can be purchased in advance through the Geary Theatre Box Office, 405 Geary St., San Francisco, 415-749-2228, or online at www.act-sfbay.org. No discounts online. Tickets can also be purchased at the door on the night of the performance.

Send items of interest to Jack Tucker at 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, Ca, 94806; fax to 510-262-2776; e-mail to jtucker@acttimes.com, or call 510-262-2768. Include a contact name and number.

LOCAL TALK HOST:

Bay Area radio literature prof at UC Berkeley will have interviewed well-known and others than anyone

LOCAL RADIO:

PERSONALITY: the present Gary Radnich

SPORTS RA-

The Raiders' pre-

"The Ticket."

NEWS ANALYSIS

astour With Jim

DOCUMENTARY:

"Grant," on PBS's

"Experience."

ES: Ed Baxter

DEVELOPMENT:

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Lat on the TV

nearly as often.

Comments? E-mail

mun@sonic.net.

NEWS

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1 hour, 47 minutes. A

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NEW YORK:

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ing and language.) 2

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ing. language.) 2 hours, 40

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Calendar
...an expert on hardy orchids, will show slides of ... easily grown in your own back yard. Above is the ... of many which thrive in the Bay Area. The talk ... at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16 at the Lakeside ... 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Details: 510-482-4473.

Community Calendar
... Thursdays one week ... on a ... basis.

Special Skills and Man-
... offered in Albany ... two hours, 3 to 5 p.m. ... for four weeks. For ... and registration fees, ... Visit the Web site at ... or call 510-...

Group holds an open
... parent/child dance ... to 12 p.m. on Jan. ... North Church, 2138 ... Berkeley. Meet the ... a parent or care- ... enjoy refresh- ... Luma Kids Dance ... of creative ... in North Berke- ... (Mills Col- ... Visit the Web site at ... or call 510-...

Group meets twice a
... evenings at the ... Resource Center, ... Ave. The free group is ... a parent or care- ... co-fa- ... whose mother had ... 531-7551

books from the Berkeley
... Community Center Li- ... late with your kids, ... the librarian, re- ... roots or check out ... library is located at ... Hours, 11 a.m. to 3 ... through Thursday, 6:30 ... on Tuesdays. For details, ...

At 2230 Shattuck Ave., a
... of Children at ... presents free puppet ... at 2:30 p.m. The ... the award-winning ... troupe, features ... conditions as cere- ... and Down syn- ... Health is a hands-on ... education museum ... sponsored by Chil- ... (Oakland and Alta Bates ... hours: Tuesday to Sat- ... 4 p.m. Admission is ... 949-882

offer special programs for
... 2 months to 5 years of ... are designed to ... children in a safe at- ... supervised. ... ages 22 months to 3 ... Monday through Thurs- ... to noon. Registration ... as space is avail- ... at 1007 Mooser Lane, De- ... 54371.

and Prospective Par-
... the first Saturday of ... 12:30 p.m. with ... All groups meet ... at 2712 Telegraph ... are re- ... required. Details: Anna ...

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NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

BONUS ROUNDS BY RICHARD SILVESTRI / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Partial
7 Boxing prize
11 Area next to an ambulatory
15 Natural emollient
19 And others, to Ovid
20 "A loaf of bread" poet
21 Victim
22 Tip off
23 Precious strings
24 Dentist's jazz band?
27 Many a cabbie
28 Like tongues of fire
29 Intrepid
30 Student of Seneca
31 Alitalia destination
33 Test material
34 Picked-up item
36 Mason's
41 Box
46 Millstone
48 Dolly shade
49 Turn on a pivot
51 Holmes, "From Here to Eternity" wife
52 Pub competition
54 Two years in the House
56 Longfellow's hell town

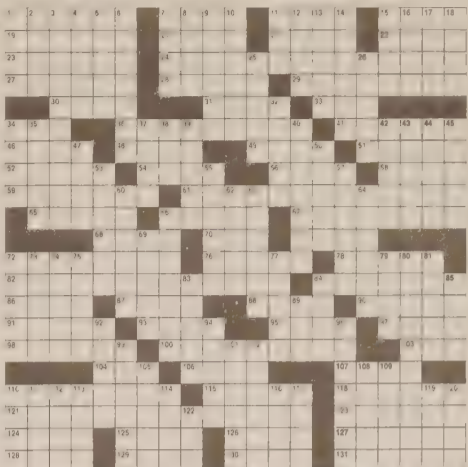
DOWN

1 Oscar word
2 The Eagles' "Take ... the Limit"
3 Biblical ass?
4 Party offering
5 You get down from it
6 Strip
7 Hit on Broadway
8 Literary Ludwig
9 Old Scottish county on the Clyde
10 Earthquake's onset
11 Months

107 Way out there
110 Kind of partner
115 Tiny amount
118 Strauss opera
121 "I think, therefore I write"
123 Bridal shop section
124 Set down
125 Pig feed
126 Abridge, maybe
127 J. Gaines, who wrote "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman"
128 Auto pioneer Karl
129 Actress Petrova, femme fatale of "Silent"
130 Sherpa sighting
131 Mississippi River explorer

12 Magical sound effect
13 Filled to the brim
14 "Hill"
15 Roll-call no-show
16 Fancy fabric
17 "Fiery" things, to Shakespeare
18 Genesis son
25 "So Much in Love" singers, 1963, with "the"
26 Nat-case
32 First name in 1950's politics
34 Mike who produced "Around the World in 80 Days"
35 Distant Nin
37 Gate: Abbr.
38 Dander
39 Reins in
40 Tops at the table
42 Port holders
43 Van Gogh locale
44 With 97-Across, a proverbial monkey's advice
45 Whiff's place
47 Suffix with dump
50 Take marks off
53 Beats it
55 Unkempt, in a way
57 Bit of newspaper advertising
60 Enter via keyboard
62 Ranch rope

For any three answers, call 1-800-855-5555. \$1.20 each. Minimum \$5.00.



63 Litters
64 Bust
66 Math table entry
69 Surmise
72 Hustle tickets
73 Songwriter Greenwich
74 Some curing
75 Campaign topic
77 Rupe's end, maybe
79 Call at first

80 25th anniversary cookie
81 Grant
83 Bull of ads
84 Asia's "Sea"
85 Normandy battle site
89 Pledge of Allegiance ender
92 Dive in
94 Ragù rival

96 Lake newlyweds, often
99 Vocal passage
101 Liverpool's river
102 Rams in the movies
105 Mournful chime
108 Renaissance "old-fashioned" festival
109 English novelist Silhouette and others

110 Healing sign
111 Spar, e.g.
112 Vain's no
113 Nabisco brand
114 Drink on board
116 Not orig
117 Reply to the Little Red Hen
119 Ship timber
120 This, in Taxco
122 3 O. e.g.

ish for business professionals. Classes start at 7 a.m. and end at 9 a.m. Call 981-2800 for more information

Assets Senior Employment offers a job training program for income-eligible people 55 and older living in Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany. Earn when you learn. Interested in working with children? You can receive college credit in Early Childhood Development while being paid. Details: 238-3554.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., offers a family-friendly program of classes, workshops and activities taught by professional teaching artists, all aimed at bringing arts participation into people's everyday lives. Classes take place at the Julia Morgan Center for the Arts. For details, including class descriptions, fees, and instructor bios, call 845-8542 or see www.juliamorgan.org.

The Berkeley Adult School offers Adult Basic Education classes, High School Diploma Requirement classes, General Educational Development Preparation classes which can be utilized to earn a GED certificate, and Preparation for US Citizenship classes. The classes are free. BAS also offers, for an affordable fee, a variety of vocational classes and computer classes, ranging from introduction to Computers to Advanced Computer Applications. Details: 641-6130.

The South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., offers a variety of classes Details: 883-5222.

Interview Clinics sponsored by Turning Point Center at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, are held on Monday mornings from 9-11 by appointment. 30-minute sessions are \$15 for YWCA members and \$20 for non-members. Call 848-6370 and leave a message to reserve an appointment time. Leave a name and telephone number.

A free CopWatch class takes place Monday nights from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at

2022 Blake St. near Shattuck. Know your rights. Details: 548-0425

Berkeley Community Media, Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Details: 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers many dances classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalarajali Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. Ashkenaz is a non-profit music and dance community center. Details: 525-5054

Life Stories/College and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Details: 845-6830

Contemporary Women's Issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC, Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Details: 641-6107

Dance and Fitness classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theater dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft

Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370

Let's Swing and Jitterbug: 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate, four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes

UC Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science continues its major exhibit "Elephants!" through Jan. 12. The exhibit features a wide variety of sensory interactive modules including touch and feel, electronic multimedia, video and audio stations exploring elephant diet and appetite; teeth and tusks; weight, skin, and hair; and ailments. Also presented is the history of how elephants became an endangered species and what is being done to save them. Admission: \$8 adults; \$6 youth; \$4 children 3-4. Free for children under 3. For general information, call 510-642-5132.

UC Botanical Garden, a non-profit research garden and museum, offers a Rose Pruning class from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Jan. 11, Peter Klement, Garden Horticulturist, guides you on how to do it right. This is the best time of year for Bay Area rose pruning; join Klement with your pruners in hand. \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Registration is required. For more information, call 510-643-2755.

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Provides the following free services for Alameda County residents:

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- Enforcing Court Orders for Child Support and Health Insurance

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Public Outreach Presentations Available to Community Based Organizations

Berkeley Neighborhood Computers, a non-profit organization, provides high-value and high-demand computer technology training for disadvantaged and at-risk individuals. The organization seeks computers and networking equipment to be used for training purposes. All donations are tax deductible. Details: 845-1226 or e-mail bnc@netvalue.net.

Berkeley Camera Club meet Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941: The Alameda, Berkeley. Share slides and prints, learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Details: 525-3565.

TOPS (Take Pounds Off Sensibly) Chapter CA 1294 is now meeting from 7:15-8:30 p.m. every Thursday evening at Mira Vista UCC Church, 7075 Cutting Blvd. TOPS is a non-profit organization assisting men and women in weight control. Details: Betty Coates at 235-0490

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. To sign up for an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine

See CALENDAR, Page C8

IN CASE

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Calendar

FROM PAGE C7

has a background in Design and Education. For the past 10 years, she has assisted in producing numerous resumes as part of her desktop publishing business. Call 848-8370.

■ **Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services** presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. Register: 644-8736.

■ **Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive** offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design, on alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. Details: 642-0808

■ **Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fridays at 1:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin avenues, in Room 2—the child-care room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively? Details: 525-5251.

■ **Toastmasters**, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 863-6706 for details.

■ **Civil Rights activists** needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington, P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

■ **"Work Buddies"**, volunteers needed to work with people in early stage Alzheimer's disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours

per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

■ **Psychic Healing clinic**: 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 800-642-9355.

■ **SMART project**; the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-245-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs

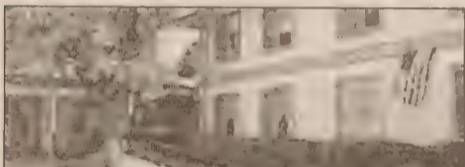
■ **The Edible Schoolyard**, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335.

■ **English-In-Action** lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley. Call 843-9716.

■ **Women's Daytime Drop-In Center** in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For details call 466-5863.

Exhibits

■ **The Kala Art Institute**, 1060 Heinz Ave., holds an exhibition for more than 50 artists through Jan. 30. Although Kala is known as a print workshop, some artists will also be exhibiting paintings, sculptures and new works in video. A reception takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 12. Gallery hours are noon to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, or by appointment. For more information, call Lauren Davies, at 510-549-2977 or via e-mail at lauren@kala.org



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In the case of the Demo Sale & Clearance, when we say hurry in, it's really good advice. Because most of the bargains are one-of-a-kind. It's first come, first served. And, in fairness to all our customers, we can't accept phone orders or hold merchandise. The earlier you shop the better your selection of bargains

MANY OF THE ITEMS LISTED HERE ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT ALL STORES.

Please note the initial(s) after the product descriptions

EXAMPLE: (SC) means that product is available at our Santa Clara store only; (CO,P) means that product is available at our Colma store and our Palo Alto store

RM = San Ramon Store, SC = Santa Clara store, P = Palo Alto store, CO = Colma store

Please Note: Due to deadlines, this list was prepared. Items listed here may have been sold previous to publication. Sorry, no layaways or phone orders. Magnolia's return policy does not apply to the prices in our Demo Sale & Clearance.

Televisions and Big Screens

	Was	Now
PANASONIC CT9R11 9" WHT AC TV W/WWL (RM,SC,PCO)	\$249.98	\$199.98
PANASONIC CT13R32 13" TELEVISION W/REMOTE (RM,SC)	\$159.98	\$139.98
SONY KV13FM12 13" GRAY TELEVISION (RM,SC,P)	\$249.98	\$149.98
SONY KV13FM13 13" WHITE TELEVISION (RM,SC,CO)	\$249.98	\$149.98
SAMSUNG TX14M181 14" FLAT TV (SC,CO)	\$179.98	\$139.98
PANASONIC CT20D12 20" STEREO TV (SC,PCO)	\$199.98	\$159.98
TOSHIBA 14AF2 14" STEREO TV W/COMPAT (RM,SC,PCO)	\$219.98	\$179.98
SONY KV20FV12 20" STEREO TELEVISION W/SHVHS (SC)	\$379.98	\$199.98
SAMSUNG TXM2091 20" FLAT TV W/COMPAT (RM,SC)	\$279.98	\$229.98
TOSHIBA 20AF4 20" FLAT TV W/COMPONENT (SC)	\$299.98	\$249.98
PANASONIC CT20S12 20" PURE FLAT TV (SC,PCO)	\$299.98	\$249.98
TOSHIBA 20AF42 20" FLAT TV W/COMPONENT (SC,PCO)	\$299.98	\$269.98
SHARP 27US60 27" STEREO TV (SC)	\$249.98	\$199.98
SAMSUNG TXL2767 27" TV W/COMPONENT (PCO)	\$299.98	\$229.98
PANASONIC CT27D11 27" TELEVISION W/RT (RM,PCO)	\$329.98	\$269.98
PANASONIC CT27D12 27" STEREO TV (RM,SC,CO)	\$319.98	\$279.98
PANASONIC CT27D31 27" TV W/DUAL TUNER PIP (RM,SC)	\$339.98	\$299.98
TOSHIBA 27AF62 27" PUREFLAT W/2 TUNER PIP (CO)	\$599.98	\$449.98
SAMSUNG TXM276HF 27" 4X3 DIG ROY TV (RM,SC,PCO)	\$799.98	\$599.98
SHARP 32RS450 32" W/COMPONENT PIP (RM,P)	\$499.98	\$299.98
TOSHIBA 32A32 32" MTS STEREO TV (SC)	\$349.98	\$299.98
PANASONIC CT32D12 32" TELEVISION W/3D Y/C (PCO)	\$479.98	\$399.98
PANASONIC CT32SX31 32" 1080i CAP TV (RM,PCO)	\$1,599.98	\$699.98
PANASONIC CT32SX31 32" W/2 TUN PIP (SC)	\$399.98	\$699.98
SAMSUNG TXM3297 32" 4 X 3 HD COMPAT TV (SC,CO)	\$1,299.98	\$899.98
SONY KV32FV300 32" TV W/2 TUN PIP (RM,SC,PCO)	\$1,199.98	\$899.98
TOSHIBA 32HF72 32" 4X3 1080i CAPABLE TV (SC)	\$1,399.98	\$999.98
SHARP 34HD82 34" 16X9 HI-DEF CAP TV (RM,SC,PCO)	\$2,399.98	\$1,799.98
SHARP 36US60 36" TELEVISION (SC)	\$399.98	\$499.98
PANASONIC CT36D32 36" TV W/2 TUNER PIP (SC,PCO)	\$799.98	\$699.98
SONY KV36F17 36" TELEVISION W/PIP (P)	\$699.98	\$749.98
SONY KV36FV300 36" TV W/2 TUN PIP (RM,SC,PCO)	\$1,499.98	\$1,199.98
PANASONIC CT36H42 36" 1080i DTV CMPT TV (RM,SC)	\$1,799.98	\$1,399.98
PANASONIC CT36H42 36" HD COMP TV (RM,SC,PCO)	\$1,899.98	\$1,499.98
PANASONIC PT40LC12 40" LCD REAR PJ TV (RM,SC,CO)	\$2,999.98	\$1,999.98
TOSHIBA 42HD82 42" 16X9 HD RY PJ TV (RM,SC,CO)	\$1,999.98	\$1,499.98
SONY KP43HT43 43" 4X3 1080i PROJ TV (SC,CO)	\$1,999.98	\$1,299.98
PANASONIC 50AE62 50" 4X3 2 TUNER PJ TV (SC)	\$999.98	\$849.98
PANASONIC PT53WX52 53" 16X9 HD COMPAT TV (SC,P)	\$2,999.98	\$1,599.98
SONY KP53HS30 53" HDTV CAPABLE TV (SC,PCO)	\$2,599.98	\$1,699.98
SAMSUNG PCL542 54" 4X3 ANALOG PJ (RM,CO)	\$999.98	\$899.98

Flat Panel Televisions

	Was	Now
PANASONIC TC11H11 11" LCD TV/DVD CB (RM,SC,PCO)	\$1,499.98	\$1,299.98
SHARP LC13B2U 13" LCD TV W/SPKRS (SC,PCO)	\$799.98	\$649.98
SAMSUNG LT1M1575 15" 16 X 9 LCD (RM,SC)	\$1,399.98	\$999.98
PANASONIC TC15H11 15" LCD TV/DVD CMB (RM,SC,P)	\$1,999.98	\$1,499.98
SAMSUNG LT1M1755 17" 4 X 3 LCD (RM,SC,PCO)	\$1,699.98	\$1,199.98
SHARP LC20B2U 20" LCD TV W/SPKRS (RM,SC,PCO)	\$1,999.98	\$1,499.98
SHARP LC30H42 30" 16 X 9 LCD TV (SC)	\$6,999.98	\$3,999.98
SONY KZ22T51 32" PLAS W/SPKRS/TUN/STAN (SC,PCO)	\$5,999.98	\$3,999.98
FUJITSU PS4233 42" PLASMA/VS MON (RM,SC,PCO)	\$5,999.98	\$4,499.98
SONY KZ42T51 42" PLSM W/SP/TUN/STND (RM,SC,PCO)	\$7,999.98	\$5,999.98
FUJITSU PS4242 42" 1024X1024 HD PLAS (RM,SC,PCO)	\$9,999.98	\$5,999.98
FUJITSU PD5500 55" PLASMA MON (PCO)	\$14,999.98	\$7,999.98

DVD Players

	Was	Now
MITSUBISHI DD6020 DVD PLR W/PROG (RM,SC,PCO)	\$249.98	\$89.98
PANAS DVDV32BLA DVD PL W/MP3,CD-R/RM,SC,PCO	\$149.98	\$104.98
SONY DVPS315B DVD PLAYER IN BLACK (RM,SC,PCO)	\$149.98	\$109.98
TOSHIBA SD2800 DVD PLAYER W/MP3 PLAY (RM,SC,PCO)	\$149.98	\$109.98
TOSHIBA SD3750 DVD PLAYER W/PRG SCN (RM,SC,PCO)	\$199.98	\$119.98
SONY DVPS500 DVD PLAYER W/ SACD (RM,SC,PCO)	\$299.98	\$139.98
SONY DVPS615 DVD PLAYER - CHANGER (RM,SC,PCO)	\$199.98	\$149.98
TOSHIBA SD3800 DVD PLAYER W/PROGSCAN (SC,CO)	\$179.98	\$149.98
PANASONIC DVDV6P7 PRO SCN DVD CHNG (RM,SC,P)	\$199.98	\$159.98
SAMSUNG DVDV2000 DVD/CDR COMBINATION (SC,PCO)	\$249.98	\$159.98
SONY DVPS655 PROG DVD CHANG SILV (RM,SC,PCO)	\$249.98	\$179.98
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TOSHIBA SD3805 PROG 5 DISC CHANG (RM,SC,PCO)	\$249.98	\$199.98
YAMAHA DVDV960 DVD DVD CAROUSEL (SC)	\$499.98	\$199.98
PANASONIC DVDV991 DVD PLAYER W/PROG (RM,PCO)	\$699.98	\$399.98
PANASONIC DMRE20 DVD RECORDER (SC,CO)	\$599.98	\$449.98
SONY DVPS900 PROGRESSIVE SCAN DVD (RM,SC,PCO)	\$699.98	\$499.98

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	Was	Now
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DENON AVR1602 70WPCX5 DD/DTS/PUI (RM,SC,PCO)	\$349.98	\$229.98
SONY STRDE655 100W X 5 2 COMP. INPUTS (RM,SC,PCO)	\$299.98	\$229.98
YAMAHA RX496 75 WPC STEREO RECEIVER (RM,SC,PCO)	\$349.98	\$249.98
SONY STRDE85BLA 100W X 5 DD & DTS (RM,SC,PCO)	\$399.98	\$269.98
YAMAHA RXV730 75X5 DD/DTS/DPI RCVR (RM,SC,PCO)	\$399.98	\$289.98
DENON AVR1802 80WPC X 5 DVI/DTS/DD RECISC,PCO	\$499.98	\$299.98
SONY STRDE85S11 61 DCD 2 PROG INPTS (RM,SC,PCO)	\$499.98	\$329.98
YAMAHA RX596 80WPC TPART STER RCVR (RM,SC,PCO)	\$499.98	\$329.98
SONY STRD43 6X100 WPC 6.1/DTS/DD RECEIVER (RM,CO)	\$799.98	\$399.98
YAMAHA RX777 100WPC TPART W/ONE 2 OUT (SC,PCO)	\$999.98	\$439.98
YAMAHA RXV730 75X5 DD-EX/DTS/ES/DPI (RM,SC,PCO)	\$599.98	\$499.98
YAMAHA RXV1300 100X6 WPC 2-ONE (RM,SC,PCO)	\$799.98	\$579.98
YAMAHA RXV2200 100X6 WPC 6.1 2-ONE RECEIVER (SC)	\$999.98	\$599.98
DENON AVR3802 110 WPC X 7 DVI/DTS (RM,SC,PCO)	\$999.98	\$649.98
SONY STRD45 60 WPC 6.1/ES/DTS/DPI (RM,SC,PCO)	\$1,199.98	\$649.98
YAMAHA RXV2300 110X6 WPC 2-1 W/DO-EX (RM,SC,PCO)	\$999.98	\$699.98
YAMAHA RXV3300 130X6/25X2 8.1 SURD REC (SC,PCO)	\$1,499.98	\$999.98
DENON AVR5800 7 X 170 WPC THX EX RECEIVER (CO)	\$2,499.98	\$1,899.98

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	Was	Now
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SONY DSCP9 4MP DIGITAL CAM W/3X OOM (RM,SC,PCO)	\$599.98	\$539.98
PANASONIC DMCLC20 2MP DSC/LCA LENS/3X (RM,PCO)	\$249.98	\$249.98
NIKON CP2500 2.1MP DSC STK W/FLIP LENS (SC,CO)	\$499.98	\$499.98
SONY DSCP5 3.1MP DIGITAL CAMERA W/3X OOM (SC)	\$499.98	\$499.98
NIKON CP885 3.2MP DSC W/3X OOM (RM,SC,PCO)	\$499.98	\$499.98
NIKON P530 5.3MP DIGITAL STILL CAM (RM,SC,P)	\$599.98	\$599.98
CANON P530 5.3MP DIGITAL STILL CAM W/2.5 LCD CAM (PCO)	\$499.98	\$499.98
SONY DSCS75 3.3 MEGA PIXEL DIGITAL CAMERA (PCO)	\$499.98	\$499.98
CANON P502 POWERSHOT G2 4.0MP DIG CAM (RM,PCO)	\$399.98	\$399.98
NIKON CP5000 5MP DSC W/3X OPTCL OOM (RM,SC,PCO)	\$999.98	\$999.98

Camcorders

	Was	Now
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PIECES ARE PER EACH	Was
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BOSTON PV400 65 WATT 7" SUBWOOFER (SC,PCO)	\$299.98
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Auto Plus

ing supplement to The Montclair, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, January 3, 2003

Section D

Classic Classics: Owner attracted by Imperial's fins [D2]

ERYL JENSEN
Down the Road

design of
s increases
popularity

MOTOR MATTERS
almost everything
that includes sport util-

designed for people who
a comfort of four-wheel
weekend ski trips or the
ability for their boat, the
past five years has trans-
use for basic daily trans-

ult, the demand for cars
ing, in 1997, cars made
cent of the market; last
figure dropped to 50 per-
centing to J.D. Power and
s, the market research

automotive industry the
"right trucks" includes
buses and minivans, but
s are all in SUVs.
data shows that SUVs
s 16 percent of the total
1997; last year they were
percent.

most when people traded
for SUVs, they had to
compromise, said Ed
Ford Division sport util-
marketing manager

at a truck that could carry
ad roads in bad weather,
up a smooth car-like ride
the manufacturers have
by making their SUVs
like in the way they ride
either by improvements
vehicles or with new
"Woichany said.
es are vehicles that use

ROAD Page D3



HONDA HAS totally redesigned its flagship Accord for 2003 and gave it a stiffer ride for improved handling, but this results in driver fatigue on rough roads.

Honda builds seventh-generation Accord for 2003

MOTOR MATTERS

The all-new Honda Accord is here. While the seventh-generation model is filled with changes, especially in styling, the tradition of dependability remains timeless and enduring.

It's reasonable to conclude that dependability, quality and durability will be the hallmarks of the 2003 Accord, because for 27 years these characteristics have been the continuing mission of Honda.

The automaker says both the sedan and the coupe are heavily defined by dramatic restyling, shar-

ing only their headlights.

This week, my test-drive model is the coupe. Its exterior is like a sleek sheet of slippery ice: not a single ripple on its elegantly shaped 188-inch-long body.

It has clean, rounded, swooping lines that portray movement even when standing still.

The body is 27 percent stiffer in rigidity. As a result, when driving on uneven roads and hard cornering I noticed a much more taut feel coming through the driver's seat.

This incredible body stiffness equates to improved handling, a

CONNIE KEANE

Keane on Wheels

feature which is fantastic on the smooth roads. However, following an afternoon of driving on typically broken, rough roadways, all this tautness was fatiguing on the driver.

An entry-level Accord coupe starts at \$19,300. My tester was the top-of-the-line EX V6, costing \$28,360, including destination

charges and Honda's navigation system.

For this price, the coupe was equipped with a very powerful and responsive 240-horsepower engine and nearly every safety feature available. The tester had anti-lock brakes, traction control, side-impact airbags, plus curtain airbags to provide head protection for both front and back seat passengers.

The three rear seating positions were equipped with three-point seat belts — not just a lap belt for the often forgotten middle seat occupant

Sometimes coupes are criticized for not being "functional." Coupes can be awkward for climbing into the back seats, cramped for hip, leg- and elbow-room, as well as poor on storage capacity.

However, with the Accord, I was able to take home my Christmas tree.

With the split-fold rear seats and the wide-mouth trunk, the tree easily slipped into the two-door coupe. Without a struggle, I removed the tree out the passenger's door

See KEANE, Page D2

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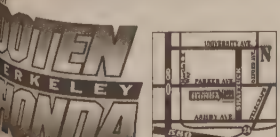


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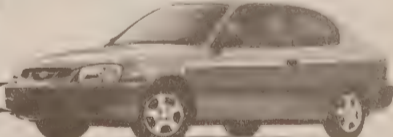
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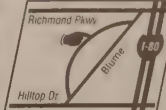


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Tail fins of 1959 Chrysler Imperial enticed buyer

MOTOR MATTERS

More than 30 years after the last tail fin had been produced, Charles Tynes began looking for a Chrysler product with tail fins, but those he found didn't light his fire.

When his grandmother died in 1998, he drove to her funeral in Philadelphia. That's where he first saw a ragged-out 1959 Imperial on a car lot. "I'd never seen such a car," Tynes says, referring to its distinctive silhouette.

Five of the eight windows were demolished, as well as the space-age taillights, but he liked what he saw. However, it took more than a year to work out a deal with the seller.

He bought the beat-up Imperial on Aug. 30, 1999. He trucked the 4,810-pound car home to Fort Washington, Md., where his neighbors wondered why.

The first order of business was to pull the 413-cubic-inch V8 engine. The wrist pins had seized years before, so Tynes, a professional automobile mechanic, spent the next three months working to free the engine.

The original dashboard was salvaged while all the upholstery was replaced with tan naugahyde, including the headliner and the swiveling front bucket seats.

Tynes acquired his Imperial because he wanted something unusual. Therefore, because of its rarity, parts are scarce. As for the myriad number of chrome-plated parts, he says, "I'm still working on it."

Five push buttons operating the three-speed torqueflite transmission are stacked on the left side of the 120-mph speedometer. From the top they are Drive — Neutral — Reverse — Second — First.

There is no Park. The car is secured by placing the transmission in neutral and setting the emergency brake.

The 18-foot, 10-inch long Imperial, riding on a 129-inch wheelbase, is filled with innovative touches, such as turn signals that are activated by a dashboard-mounted lever below the stack of transmission buttons.

VERN PARKER
Classic Classics

Three buttons are on the floor by the driver's left foot. The lowest button activates the high beam headlights while the middle button operates the signal-seeking AM radio. The top button turns on the windshield washers.

The luxurious car is equipped with power seats, locks, brakes, antenna, steering, and windows. It also has air conditioning and two-speed wipers.

When new, the car was all white. It sold with a base price of \$5,403. By the time Tynes bought the car, rust was added to the white.

Early in 2001, the Imperial was stripped to bare metal before being painted Sherwood green with an accenting off-white top.

The restoration was complete — as far as any restoration is ever complete — in June 2001. "It was a challenge," Tynes admits.

He filled the 22-gallon fuel tank with gasoline and then boosted the octane with a lead additive. On a 300-mile round trip to Carlisle, Pa., he reports fuel economy figures in the 10- to 12-mpg range.

"The 350-horsepower motor has got some power to it," Tynes affirms. "It can level the mountains."

In the year and a half since the restoration was completed, he has driven his incredible Imperial about 8,000 miles. "She's come a long way," he says, "and I've been enjoying her ever since."

Only 1,728 such Imperials were manufactured. Tynes enjoys settling into the easily accessible driver's swivel seat and swinging around to take control of the two-spoke steering wheel.

The owner enjoys looking in the mirror and seeing the "gunsight" brakelight come on at the tips of the soaring tail fins when he steps on the brake pedal.



MOTOR MATTERS

THIS 1959 CHRYSLER IMPERIAL is a joy to drive for its owner, but restoring it to drivability was a challenge.

If you have a vehicle of interest to "Classic Classics" readers, write to Motor Matters, #635 Bailey Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808-4109 detailing its merits.

Best to follow break-in recommendations

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Q I just bought a new 2002 Chevrolet Suburban with the Vortec 5300 engine.

In the manual it states that there is a 500-mile break-in period. Is this really necessary with today's new engines?

Tony Johnson, Pleasanton, Calif.

A Most new vehicles specify a break-in period, which includes moderate engine and vehicle speeds, avoiding constant speeds, no trailer towing and moderate brake usage.

The main purpose of the break-in period is to allow the piston rings to mate properly with the cylinder walls. Other engine and driveline parts also benefit from a gentle wear-in period.

If the recommended operating conditions aren't followed, it's possible the engine might suffer from excessive oil consumption or less than optimum performance.

Many in the industry believe it best to stick with the original motor oil during break-in, and switch (if desired) to synthetic oil afterward.

It's believed the superior lubricating qualities of synthetic oil might hinder desired break-in friction.

Q I want to put snow tires on my 2000 Maxima SE with 17-inch rims. I'm wondering if I can go to a

BRAD BERGHOLDT
Auto QnA

smaller rim.

What size tires would I need to make up the difference so as not to have a problem with the transmission?

Judy Moran, Oakdale, Conn.

A I believe your Maxima is equipped with 225-50-R17 tires, which are approximately 26 inches in diameter.

When switching tires and/or wheels, it's best to maintain as close to the same overall diameter as possible to avoid problems with tire clearance, and speedometer, transmission and anti-lock (ABS) brake system calibrations.

There are several choices to consider. You could purchase a pair of 17-inch snow tires (about \$130 to \$160 each) and have them installed, removed and balanced each season.

Or, with luck, you might be able to find a pair of take-off or recycled 17-inch alloy wheels that match yours, at moderate cost. Check with the dealer, tire stores and auto recycling yards.

Another option is to purchase a pair of 15-inch steel wheels (about \$50 each at www.tirerack.com)

and a pair of 205-65-R15 snow tires (\$70 to \$90 each). This tire-wheel combination will be very close to the same diameter, cost the least and simplify the seasonal switch-over.

The only downside is the mismatched appearance of the plain-painted steel wheels.

Q Is downshifting to slow down a car (instead of using the brakes) bad for the transmission?

Nick Feng, Seattle

A Gear changes do increase transmission wear somewhat, but I'd highly recommend downshifting on long or steep grades to protect your brakes from overheating. Many modern cars have wimpy brakes, and if overused, can develop pulsation and squealing problems.

Readers respond: Several of you noted that some vehicles have different length windshield wipers. When measuring for new ones, be sure to check both, rather than one.

If purchasing refills, you'll have no choice but to buy a pair of each. Think of it as a two-year supply, or one complete blade of each length.

E-mail questions to Bergholdt@Juno.com or write to him in care of Drive, Mercury News, 750 Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190. He cannot make personal

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Keane on Wheels

FROM PAGE D1

The EX V6 model had new, larger front seats, with heating controls, steering wheel-mounted audio controls and improved cup holders, ones that actually hold bottle-size beverages.

I was disappointed with the inferior quality of Honda's new multi-functional key, which eliminates the need for a remote key fob.

The plastic around the key broke, setting off the panic alarm.

With the plastic surround broken, I was prohibited access to the car using the fob controls, and had to resort to inserting the key in the door for locking and opening.

Despite the impressive attributes of the cabin versatility and admirable styling, what is under the hood is the best feature.

Mated to a new five-speed automatic transmission, the 24-valve, 3.0-liter V6 engine gave me a satisfying sports car-like ride.

Drivetrain improvements have led to 40 more horsepower over the previous V6 and a 19 pound-foot torque increase.

The Accord now has 240 horsepower at 6,250 rpm and 212 pound-feet of torque at 5,000 rpm.

Fuel economy ratings are 21 mpg city and 30 mpg highway.

The coupe is also available with a 2.4-liter, 150-horsepower, four-cylinder engine equipped with a five-speed manual transmission.

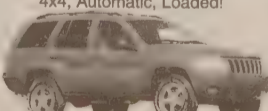


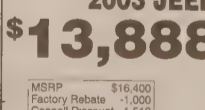



Once again, Honda has built an all-new vehicle that may assure the Accord status as a perennial favorite.

HONDA ACCORD EX V6

Vehicle Type	Five-passenger front-wheel drive
Suggested Retail	Mid-size sedan \$27,900
Price as Tested	\$28,360
Engine Type	SOHC 24-valve, 3-liter V6 w/MPI
Horsepower	240 at 6,250 rpm
Torque	212 at 5,000 rpm
Transmission	Five-speed automatic
Wheelbase	105 inches
Curb Weight	3,294 pounds
Fuel Capacity	17 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 21/30
Strong Feature	Exterior styling and performance
Weak Feature	Multi-functional key

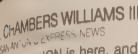
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2/Trig. Teacher, PT
For small college prep high school, 2nd yr in algebra; req. 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H.S. diploma or equivalent and successful completion of cross-trained Lineworker Training Program

Five (5) yrs. of Journey level experience in the installation, maintenance and/or underground electric utility systems

Knowledge of electrical principles and materials

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Applications are accepted at Montrose Employment District H-R Dept., 1231 11th St., Montrose, CO 81401, 970-246-3534, WWW.MD-ORG (970) 526-7343

The successful applicant will be required to pass a medical exam including a complete background check prior to beginning employment.

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ELECTRICIAN \$27,715-\$37,916
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Dawson and Sons, Inc. 2229
Wb CC12293563

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New York seeks Director to protect aging and open space. Salary \$100,000-\$125,000. Tel: 609-426-5800. E-mail: Tel: 609-426-5800. E-mail: Tel: 609-426-5800.

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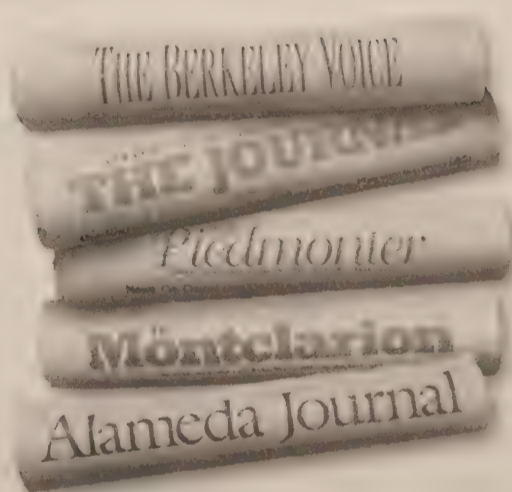
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16in alloy wheels, wipers, low
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Will sell for parts or as
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BASS tracker, T-V17, 40
Horse, 2 opn, extras,
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19' BAYLINER Capri, 5.0
OMC, open bow, runs grt.
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Power & Sail, 8' to 50'
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CAMPER SHELL LEER, red,
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low mi., like new, dual, fima
bags, shield, pipes, tanks,
chrome & more. \$23,800
obo. Call (925) 625-3538

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tachable bags, pass. seat,
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\$20K Dave 925/202-9985

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never down or abused; too
many access. to list. Low
mi. orig. owner, all service
records. X-Int. \$10500/obo
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HONDA 2002 CR250, Like

new, new graphics, \$4500
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trf \$450 (925) 381-5186

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YAMAHA 2000 TTR 125,

PV 80 both excel. \$2150,
\$1300. (925) 625-0254

YAMAHA 1992 PW50, perf

starting, cbr, topbottom and
\$800 OBO. (925) 372-8121

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YF600C Qrt 4 kids, runs grt.
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Crisis help lines & educ.
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owner \$6900 925/838-8050

CHEVROLET 1989 Z71,

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CHEVROLET 1993 runs,

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Cab S/L, diesel, LB, 2WD
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V10 A/T, 4x4, loaded, trlr.
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cab, 5.9, ltr, pwr pkg,
cust. 17' white Sacrifice
\$17,900 925-876-2650

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ado 1500 Xcab Stepside,
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CHEVROLET 2000 Silver-

ado 1500 96k mi
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ado Lowered, 45K, Cust
whis/stereo/exhaust/more
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Extended Cab
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ado Stepside, Xcab, V8
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4x4, 78K, loaded, very
clean \$9500 925/969-1946

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CHEVROLET 1992 Silver-
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5spd, amfm, cd, new tires
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CHEVROLET 1993 runs,

stock, clean, \$2000 Andy
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CHEVROLET 1992 PU, runs

grt, new tires, oak cab,
\$3800 obo. (925) 829-1048

DODGE 2001 Ram 2500 X-

Cab S/L, diesel, LB, 2WD
\$20,400 925/899-0231

DODGE 2001 Dually 3500,

V10 A/T, 4x4, loaded, trlr.
\$19,000/rrm 925/706-8713

DODGE 2000 1500 Quad

cab, 5.9, ltr, pwr pkg,
cust. 17' white Sacrifice
\$17,900 925-876-2650

DODGE 1999 Ram 4WD, X

cab S/L, 5.9 V8, 1 own.
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"Great Work Truck"
\$6,988 + fees 921/9919

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Lariat, whitn, ltr, 6 CD,
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41K ltr, mi., Mint cond!
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cab 3.4 V6, slp side, all
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spd, air, bed liner, 29K mi.,
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4dr., AT, A/C, pw, pl, V6,
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ford cover, 20K mi, X-mi
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auto, a/c, pw, abs
Super Clean! #A35209
\$17,988 Exp. 01/03/2003

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Cab, V6, automatic, A/C,
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Must sell \$6450 #A56007
TAC AUTO 925-828-3930

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lesses 925/766-2456

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V8, shell liner, longbed
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Lariat/shell loaded/immac.
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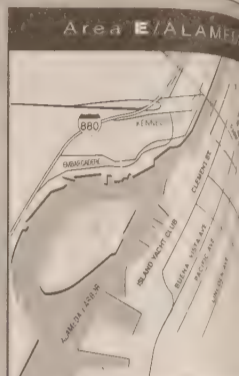
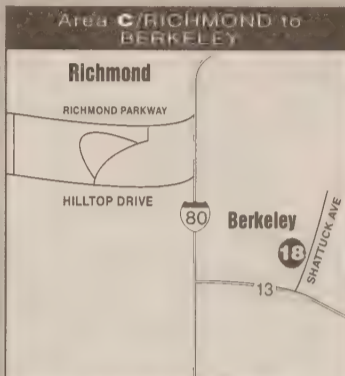
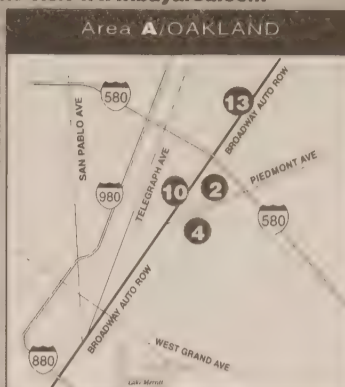
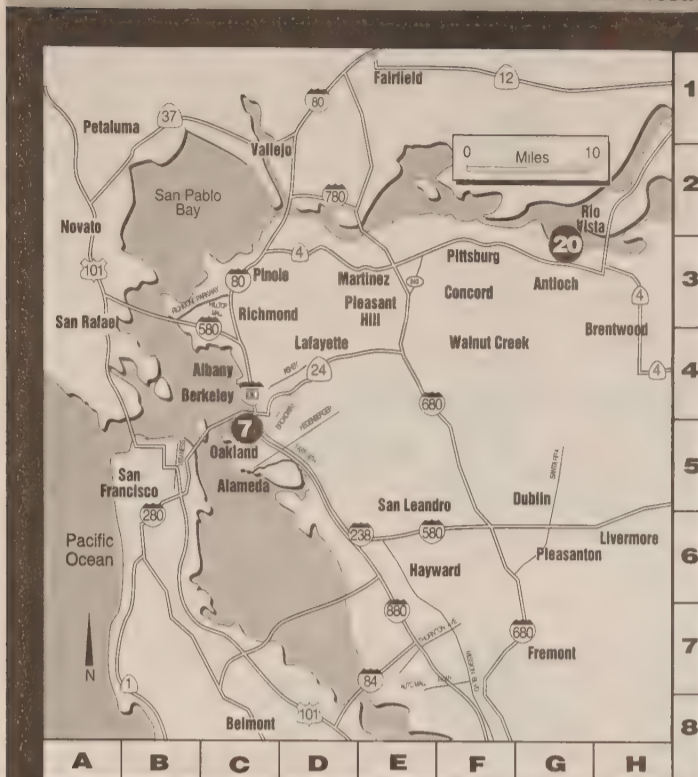
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Warm food, warm body' other filling facts

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... recommend certain

types of food and patterns of eating to prevent hypothermia (extreme loss of body heat).

1. When it comes to eating your way warm in cold weather, hot meals are the starting point. The warmth of the heated food eaten is transferred throughout the body. Liquid foods leave the stomach sooner than solid foods. Warm up yourself with soup or a nutritious hot drink like tea or a cappuccino.

2. Foods high in carbohydrates work best to improve outdoor cold tolerance. Immediately after eating, the body produces more heat — especially after eating sugars and starches like grains (including cereals, breads, pasta, rice), fruits, vegetables and dairy foods.

3. Some spicy foods — like those that contain hot peppers, including sauces, soups or vinegars — can also make diners feel warm. These foods trigger a process called vasodilation, when blood vessels open wider and heat rushes in. These foods are fine for indoors, to warm us when we come in from cold weather activities outside. They're also great tailgate choices.

■ Certain foods can make you feel colder in cold weather. A diet high in protein is the worst for cold weather activities. Protein is burned less efficiently, so when processed in our body, it does not create an even source of heat. High-protein foods include meat, poultry, eggs, fish and nuts.

■ If your body is low in iron, you will feel colder. People who are even mildly iron deficient do experience chilling and decreased tolerance to the cold sooner than those with adequate iron intakes. To be sure you are not iron deficient, see your doctor to be tested for anemia (iron deficiency). Feeling chilled frequently can be a symptom of anemia.



BOB LARAMIE/PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

See WARM, Page 2

THE HOT TOPIC of cold-weather hibernation is all the rage from health food gurus to fitness experts.

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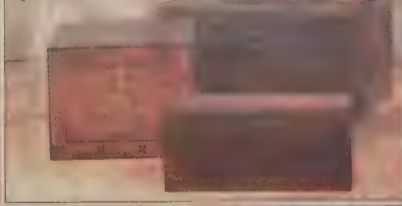
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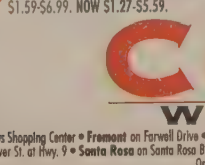


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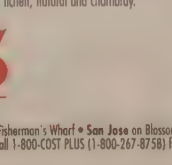
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Top 10 exceptional recipes earn 2002 Golden Whisk Award

BY SUSAN PUCKETT
COX NEWS SERVICE

ATLANTA — Before a recipe appears under any of our food writers' bylines, we try it in our own kitchens — not only to make sure it works but also to confirm it's worth the effort, calories and expense involved.

If there is any doubt, we tinker with it until we feel it's up to snuff, or ditch it and move on to a better recipe.

And if it exceeds our expectations, we place it under a file marked "Golden Whisk contender."

For five years, we have ended the year with a roundup of what we view as our top 10 favorites: the recipes that, in our opinions, are most worthy of a special place of honor in anyone's recipe files.

Those that stand out typically have more than good taste going for them. Perhaps they introduced us to a time-saving cooking technique, educated us about an interesting ingredient, made us feel nutritionally virtuous or took us on a tasty trip down memory lane.

This selection represents all of those things for us, and more. And we hope they'll do the same for you.

Appetizer

TUSCAN KALE BRUSCHETTA

1 loaf ciabatta bread
2 tablespoons excellent extra-virgin olive oil

1 clove garlic, crushed or minced fine
2 ounces pancetta or guanciale, diced

1 bunch Tuscan kale (about 10 leaves), ribs removed and leaves sliced very thinly

1 small hot red pepper in brine, chopped fine (or one large pinch dried red pepper flakes)

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Cut one end off the ciabatta loaf and then cut 8 thin (1/4 inch) slices of ciabatta carefully with a serrated knife. Toast in toaster or oven until golden on both sides.

Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the garlic and the pancetta or guanciale. Toss briefly until aromatic, then add the kale. Continue tossing until the bits of pancetta start to curl and brown. Add the hot pepper and the seasonings. Divide evenly on the 8 toasts, heaping the greens a bit in the center. Serve hot or at room temperature.

Preparation time: 10 minutes, cooking time: 5 minutes, makes 4 servings.

Bread

RAZZLE-DAZZLE CORN BREAD

Shortening to coat skillet (about 1 tablespoon)

1 cup self-rising flour
1 cup self-rising cornmeal

3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons granulated sugar

1 1/2 tablespoons lemon zest
3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter, melted

3/4 cup milk
2 egg yolks plus 1 whole egg

1 1/2 cups fresh raspberries
Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Coat an 8- or 9-inch cast-iron skillet with a thin layer of shortening and set aside.

In a medium mixing bowl, combine self-rising flour, self-rising cornmeal, 3/4 cup sugar and lemon zest. In a separate bowl, mix together butter, milk, egg yolks and whole egg.

Pour liquid mixture into the dry ingredients and mix until blended. Gently fold in raspberries. Pour mixture into the skillet and bake for 25 minutes.

Remove the bread from the oven and sprinkle 2 tablespoons of sugar over the top. Return to the oven and bake another 5 minutes.

Preparation time: 20 minutes, cooking time: 25 minutes, makes 6 servings.

Salad

HOT AND SOUR SOBA SALAD

For the Hot and Sour Dressing:

1 tablespoon tahini
2 teaspoons tamari

2 tablespoons cider vinegar
1 1/2 teaspoons hot red pepper oil

1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
1 tablespoon sesame oil

1 1/2 teaspoons minced or grated fresh ginger

1/2 clove garlic, minced
1/2 cup vegetable broth

For the salad:

6 dried shiitake mushrooms
1 tablespoon tamari

2 teaspoons salt
2 tablespoons vegetable oil

1/2 pound buckwheat noodles (soba)

2 tablespoons sesame oil
1 cup mung bean sprouts

1 cucumber, peeled and sliced
2/3 cup unsalted peanuts

3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

Red leaf lettuce
Tomato wedges

To make the dressing: In a blender, combine tahini, tamari, vinegar, red pepper oil, red pepper flakes, sesame oil, ginger, gar-

lic and vegetable broth and process until smooth. Set aside.

To make the salad: Place the dried mushrooms in a small bowl and cover with boiling water. Add the tamari and stir. Let stand for about 15 minutes while you prepare the rest of the salad. Bring a large pot of water to boil. Add the salt, vegetable oil and noodles. Cook until al dente, about 5 minutes. Drain, rinse with cold water and toss with sesame oil in a large bowl.

When the mushrooms are soft, drain and rinse thoroughly. Cut off and discard the stems, then slice the caps into slivers. Add to noodles along with bean sprouts, cucumber, peanuts, cilantro and dressing. Line a serving platter with lettuce leaves, top with noodle mixture and garnish with tomato wedges.

Preparation time: 20 minutes, cooking time: 5 minutes, makes 6 servings.

— Adapted from "Fast Vegetarian Feasts" by Martha Rose Shulman (Dial Press, 1982)

Main dishes

ROAST PORK LOIN WITH GOLDEN ALMOND CRUST

1 (4-pound) boneless pork loin roast

Salt and freshly ground pepper
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard

2 cloves garlic, peeled
1 cup fresh bread crumbs

1/2 cup sliced almonds
1/4 cup chopped fresh Italian parsley

1 teaspoon herbes de Provence

For the Dijon mustard sauce:

4 cups low-sodium chicken broth

2 tablespoons Dijon mustard, or more to taste

1/4 cup (1/2 stick) unsalted butter, cut into small pieces

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Season pork with salt and pepper and rub with mustard.

In a food processor, with the motor running, add garlic and process until minced. Add bread crumbs, almonds, parsley and herbs and pulse until mixture is finely chopped. Pat almond mixture over roast, pressing to coat well. Place roast on a rack in a shallow roasting pan and cook for 1 1/2 to 2 hours, or until the crust is lightly browned and a meat thermometer inserted into the center of the roast registers 155 to 160 degrees. Transfer roast to a cutting board and let stand 10 minutes before slicing.

While the pork is cooking, prepare the sauce. In a saucepan

over medium heat, simmer chicken broth until reduced to 1 cup.

Reduce heat and whisk in mustard; taste. Add additional mustard if desired. Whisk in butter, a few pieces at a time, until butter is incorporated and the sauce is smooth.

Preparation time: 15 minutes, cooking time: 1 1/2-2 hours, makes 8 servings.

— Adapted from "Nuts" by Tina Salter (Ten Speed Press, \$29.95)

BULGOGI

3 tablespoons sesame seeds
2/3 cup low-sodium soy sauce

2 tablespoons granulated sugar

2 tablespoons sherry

1 pound top sirloin or top round, sliced into 2-inch-long strips

In a nonstick saute pan, toast sesame seeds until golden brown, swirling them occasionally to prevent burning and toast evenly. Pulverize sesame seeds with a rolling pin, mortar and pestle or knife. In a large bowl, mix sesame seeds, soy sauce, sugar, sherry and 1/4 cup water. Add beef and stir to combine.

Marinate for 10 to 15 minutes. In a nonstick pan or a lightly oiled skillet, place beef strips in a single layer. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes per side.

Preparation time: 5 minutes, marinating time: 10-15 minutes, cooking time: 5 minutes, makes 4 servings.

SHRIMP ARNAUD

1 pound peeled and deveined shrimp

6 tablespoons olive oil

2 tablespoons vinegar

1 tablespoon paprika

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon white pepper

4 tablespoons creole or other spicy mustard

1 tablespoon finely chopped celery

3 1/2 tablespoons finely chopped onion

1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley

1 head romaine lettuce, chopped

Boil shrimp for 1 to 2 minutes or until just done. Rinse in cold water and refrigerate for 1 hour.

Mix olive oil, vinegar, paprika, salt, pepper, mustard, celery, onion and parsley and chill. "Enthroned" shrimp on lettuce and top with sauce.

Preparation time: 15 minutes, plus 1 hour to chill, cooking time: 1-2 minutes, makes 4 servings.

BAKED EGGPLANT AND POLENTA

1 (1-1/2-pound) peeled eggplant, cut lengthwise into 8 slices

1 26-ounce jar marinara sauce, divided

8 ounces part-skim shredded mozzarella cheese (2 cups), divided

1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese, divided

1 17 or 18 ounce tube ready-to-heat polenta, cut into 20 slices

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

Cray eggplant slices with cooking spray on both sides. Place on a baking sheet and bake 20 minutes or until tender. Reduce oven to 375 degrees.

Place 4 slices eggplant in bottom of a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Spread with 1 cup marinara sauce. Sprinkle with 2/3 cup mozzarella and 1 tablespoon Parmesan. Repeat once. Top with polenta slices, remaining sauce and both cheeses. Bake, uncovered, 20 minutes or until bubbly and cheese melts.

Preparation time: 20 minutes, cooking time: 40 minutes, makes 6 servings.

CHICKEN IN GARLIC AND SHALLOTS

1 whole chicken (broiler/fryer) cut into 8 pieces, or 10 chicken thighs

Salt and freshly ground pepper

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons olive oil

Several sprigs of parsley, sage and thyme

10 peeled cloves of garlic

10 shallots, peeled and split in half from stem to root

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Season chicken liberally with salt and pepper. Toss with 2 tablespoons of olive oil and brown on both sides in a wide, straight-sided, ovenproof frying pan or skillet over high heat. (If you don't have such a pan, you may need to brown the chicken in one pan and then finish the dish in a casserole.)

Remove from heat; add herbs, garlic, shallots and the remaining 1/2 cup olive oil. (There's no reason to chop the herbs, just distribute them around and in between the chicken.) Cover and bake for 1 1/2 hours.

Preparation time: 10 minutes, cooking time: 1 1/2-1 3/4 hours, makes 6 servings.

Remove from heat; add herbs, garlic, shallots and the remaining 1/2 cup olive oil. (There's no reason to chop the herbs, just distribute them around and in between the chicken.) Cover and bake for 1 1/2 hours.

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Warm

FROM PAGE 1

Women are more susceptible to anemia because of menstrual blood losses, though men who exercise regularly at an intense level can also be deficient. To increase iron stores, eat fortified cereals, rice, and bread, or dark vegetables and beans in your food plan. Lean, red meat is an excellent source of iron. A physician can prescribe iron supplements for those individuals with anemia, but it is not recommended to take iron in a tablet form other than the level of iron present in a multivitamin.

Cooler weather can be a wonderful time to be active — and burn extra calories. Outdoor activities like raking leaves and shoveling snow, and fall and winter sports like football, soccer, skiing, sledding, and ice hockey, are excellent ways to stay fit. Walking on snow requires at least twice the amount of energy as walking on a hard dry surface at the same speed. The burden of heavy clothing can require an additional 5 percent to 15 percent of calories above normal. Take that into account when your appetite increases.

CHILI ON RICE

3 teaspoons olive oil

1 medium onion, diced

1/2 red pepper, diced

1 large carrot, diced or shredded

1 clove garlic, minced

1/4 teaspoon chili powder

1 teaspoon ground cumin

One (15-ounce) can whole or chopped tomatoes

1 cup broth (vegetable, chicken, tomato juice or water)

One (28-ounce) can black beans

1 ear corn, kernels removed

Coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper

In a large pot, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the onions, peppers, carrot, and garlic, cook stirring often, until vegetables are tender, about 5 minutes. Add chili powder and cumin, and cook 1 to 2 minutes more or until they smell delicious.

Add the tomatoes, broth, black beans and corn to the pot with the vegetables. Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer. Cook 10 to 20 minutes, until flavors are well combined. Taste and adjust seasonings with salt and pepper. Serve over rice.

Source: Kathleen Daelemans, from www.foodtv.com.

WHITE CHILI

6 white corn tortillas

1 tablespoon olive or canola oil

1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast, trimmed and cut into chunks

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

2 small red bell peppers, seeded and diced

1 large onion, chopped

One 4-ounce can chopped green chilies, drained

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 tablespoon chili powder

stickers: Easily frozen and steamed to order right from the freezer

VE PETUSEVSKY
FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL
I hosted a tasting for 50 people and served dumplings. I didn't resist plunging my into any delicate wrapping. I relish the in soy ponzu, sauce or hot chilies. I am 365 days a

up to three days before serving. If you want to turn potstickers into an entree, place them on a bed of sauteed greens such as spinach, bok choy or Napa cabbage.

Here's my potsticker primer

Remember, everything can be done ahead so you can enjoy your party:

The wrappers: Square and round dumpling wrappers can be found fresh in the supermarket produce section and frozen in Asian markets. There are several different kinds, so read labels. Some are vegan, some loaded with coloring, msg and chemicals. Buyer beware. Defrost the wrappers in your refrigerator and keep them dry so they are easier to stuff. A 1-pound package contains 8 or 9 dozen wrappers depending on their thickness. I like to select at least two varieties of wrappers and stuff them with different fillings.

The fillings: I offer a recipe for Chinese Seven Treasure Filling. It's a great vegetarian option to which you can add your choice of ingredients. All the vegetables needed for this recipe can be found in the produce section of your grocery store, but I recom-

mend buying them in Asian stores where they usually are fresher. Chinese garlic chives are wonderful in place of scallions. Use them if you can find them. If you see other ingredients — dried mushrooms, interesting vegetables — be adventurous and add them. Almost anything goes in a potsticker.

Filling: Place several dumpling wrappers on a clean, dry work surface in front of you. With a small brush or your finger, moisten the edges of the wrappers. Place 1 tablespoon filling in the center of each wrapper. If filling a round wrapper by hand, pull up the sides of the wrapper around the filling and pinch the skin in pleats until you form a secure package. Make sure the seam is sealed so the filling doesn't leak out during cooking.

If using a dumpling mold, simply place the round wrapper in the machine, moisten its edge, add filling and close the machine to fold and seal the wrapper around the filling.

Square wrappers have to be shaped by hand. Fold one corner to meet the opposite corner forming a turnover or triangular shape. Press to seal the edges. Then bring the points together and

press to seal into a ring shape; it will look like a tortellini.

To store: Transfer the dumplings or potstickers to a lightly floured baking pan and cover with a dampened cloth. Freeze potstickers in a single layer until solid and transfer to a freezer bag.

To cook: Although you can fry these in oil, I prefer to steam them. Bamboo or metal steamers are great because they have two levels, so you can cook more at one time. Place a large cabbage leaf on the bottom of the steamer basket and place the potstickers on top of it. Cover and steam 8 to 10 minutes until heated through.

If you eat shrimp, you can add ½ pound peeled, deveined and coarse-chopped raw shrimp to the pan as you cook the vegetables. Or add ¼ cup Chinese black salted beans that you soak in cold water 15 minutes and rinse well before incorporating. Increase the chili paste for a spicy version. Or add ½ cup chopped water chestnuts or 2 tablespoons peanut butter.

CHINESE SEVEN TREASURE FILLING
2 tablespoons mirin (Japanese wine)

2 teaspoons sugar
1 tablespoon rice vinegar
2 teaspoons Asian sesame oil
1 teaspoon chili paste with garlic or ½ teaspoon dried red chili flakes, crushed
1 tablespoon soy sauce
2 teaspoons cornstarch
1 tablespoon canola oil
3 cloves minced garlic
1 tablespoon minced ginger root

½ medium onion, minced
½ small head green cabbage or 3 to 4 heads baby bok choy, cored and coarsely chopped
3 large dried Chinese shiitake mushrooms reconstituted in warm water, drained and minced
½ cup Chinese garlic chives or scallions, minced
1 carrot, peeled and grated
In a nonreactive bowl, combine mirin, sugar, rice vinegar, sesame oil, chili paste, soy sauce and cornstarch. Stir until smooth; set aside.

Heat canola oil in a nonreactive large skillet or wok over high heat. Add garlic, ginger root, onions, cabbage, mushrooms, chives and carrots. Saute 3 minutes until vegetables are tender

and browned slightly. Add mirin mixture and continue to saute 1 minute until sauce is slightly thickened. Remove from heat and cool before handling. Filling can be made a few days before using. Makes enough for 4 dozen potstickers.

For dipping: Use soy sauce or make My Favorite Soy-Lime Ponzu.

MY FAVORITE SOY-LIME PONZU

¼ cup low-sodium soy sauce
1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
1 tablespoon mirin (Japanese wine)
Juice of 1 lime
2 teaspoons minced ginger root
1 tablespoon minced scallions
2 teaspoons Asian sesame oil
1 teaspoon chili oil or chili paste
1 teaspoon chopped cilantro, sesame seeds or chopped peanuts, for garnish
Combine all ingredients except garnish in a nonreactive small mixing bowl. Garnish with chopped cilantro, sesame seeds or chopped peanuts. Makes ½ cup.

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The kitchen essentials of 2002

BY TINA CROLEY

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

It slices. It dices. It sautes. It seasons. It minces. It mashes. It peels. It cores.

It's you.

And you deserve some help.

Sure, we all fantasize about the piece de resistance, that La Cornue cast-iron and copper 6-burner double oven, the hottest thing since sliced bread and priced at about \$26,000.

But when dreams become reality, you'd trade it in for a little something that peels potatoes without hurting your hand, is dishwasher friendly and fits in your utility drawer.

With that in mind, we've come up with a list of gadgets and gear that really work — that real cooks swear by. Think Julia Child and her beloved potato ricer, which now lives in the Smithsonian.

Don't be fooled by the fried and true. Innovation is key. The old favorites keep getting better, smaller, brighter or cheaper.

KitchenAid added tangerine to its color scheme and upsized its mixer capacity. Mandolines, once considered a way-to-too-expensive luxury, now come in plastic versions. One-cup choppers cater to folks whose counter space is at a premium.

And many companies are paying attention to ergonomics, special needs (left-handers, aging cooks, etc.) and new technology.

Our gift to you? Ways to save time, space and your sanity.

Kitchenaid artisan stand mixer

KitchenAid might be the Cadillac of mixers, but it's still driven to improve. This year, that translates to a 5-quart version, the Artisan series. It still has the classic feel — the first came out in 1919 — and the counter hog presence. But it's the top of the line for speed and efficiency.

Forget your hand-held, this is the only way to go. There's a splatter shield over the bowl, rubber feet to keep it stable.

Yes, it's expensive (\$349.99 suggested retail) but now's the time to take advantage of sales and promotional offers. The Great Indoors had it for \$249.99 with a mail-in offer for a free mixing set. There are plenty of discounts online as well. New this year is a tangerine version, which is on the cover of the Williams-Sonoma holiday 2002 catalog (www.williams-sonoma.com).

Maverick Redi Chek remote cooking thermometer

Is that beautiful-looking pork roast really done? How pink is pink supposed to be? Deciding when done means done is serious business. A remote thermometer makes it downright simple.

First came the meat thermometer — put it in the meat, then put it in the oven. Then came the instant-read thermometer — take the meat out of the oven insert the thermometer for a quick doneness check.

We now go one step beyond all that: the Maverick Redi Chek remote thermometer, \$59.95, which combines the best of both. You put a thermometer on a cord into the meat. Program the device for the type of meat and how you'd like it cooked, from rare to well done. A remote device sits outside the oven — or on a table near your outdoor grill.

Microplane grater

The Arkansas company's kitchen tools began life in the wood shop. A wife stole her husband's rasp to zest an orange, and the rest is culinary history.

Use one of these things and you'll never use an old-fashioned box grater again. It's wonderful for zesting citrus and grating hard cheeses, ginger, nutmeg, chocolate, you name it.

The reason the Microplane grater is better than average is that the metal blades are extremely thin and the teeth are razor-blade sharp. They cost about \$15-\$20 at good kitchen stores or housewares departments. Graters are available in several styles, some with specific uses (zest, spices). Another plus: Graters with handles are much safer (no more knicked knuckles).

Toss & chop

Could Oprah, "Today" and QVC be wrong? All are touting the new Toss & Chop by Silvermark. It's a simple cook's dream and can easily take the place of a food processor.

You put all your ingredients in a bowl, then put these scissor-snipers to work, chopping right inside. Think presto salad. It's one of QVC's 10 top-selling kitchen items. \$24.95 at www.qvc.com.

Zylliss salad spinner

If you don't get it, chances are, you haven't used one.

Use this to dry salad greens or fresh herbs (no more blot-blot-blot), or to remove excess water from other things, such as seashell pasta for salad, or vegetables you've blanched and want to saute later, or even fresh berries when it's important to get them dry before using them in a recipe.

The interior basket of the spinner

can be used as a colander for rinsing the items, and then you just pop it into the spinner and dry them off without mashing or bruising.

Make sure you invest in a good one — sturdy, quick to use and well-designed. The Zylliss 5-quart, \$20, is a wonderful option, with a pull-string "motor." Others swear by the Oxo brand, which has a handle that locks down for storage, so it takes up less room.

Bron mandoline

This mandoline — French for a fancy veggie slicer — has three stainless steel blades that will have you slicing and crinkling like a pro.

A plus: uniform, quick cuts in a variety of thicknesses. And there's a folding stand.

A minus: If a mandoline can do that to a potato, think what it can do to stray fingers. Even with a pushing guard, you must be careful.

The Bron version sells for \$99.99. Not ready to commit? Try a smaller, starter version, Martha Stewart's plastic mandoline with a wider knob for safety. It's \$7.99 at Kmart.

Chef Works aprons

Forget those frilly versions your grandmother wore to protect her Sunday best. We wouldn't cook without something all-cotton and soil-resistant that stands up to machine washing again and again.

That's where Chef Works comes in.

The company has a large selection of restaurant-quality aprons: V-neck tuxedo style, designer kitchen bits, waist aprons and more. Have

a little fun with their edgy new patterns like whimsical fish, knives, utensils, chalk strips and more.

There's no minimum order on most items, and these are very affordable, as low as \$8.95.

Le Creuset spatulas

Every kitchen has its quiet workhorses, gadgets that do their part without much fanfare. A sturdy spatula should be one of them.

Le Creuset spatulas are made of medical grade silicon, which means they won't melt when you accidentally let them rest in your cast-iron skillet. Some are good up to 650 degrees.

They also come in happy colors, many sizes (mini to jumbo slotted spoon spatulas) and the blades are stain-resistant. We recommend the festive 7-piece set with its own crock, \$59.95, available in housewares departments and on the Web at www.le-creuset.com.

The jar pop!

Another wonderful invention — but not widely known. This \$2.99 plastic lever-type gadget — available at housewares or discount stores — is invaluable for opening screw-on lids that are very thin around the edge, like olive and some pickle jars.

Anyone who has weak grip strength knows how hard some jars are to open. The Jar Pop doesn't just pry off the lid. It lifts the edge of the lid enough to break the vacuum seal and allow air into the jar. It makes a little "pop" sound, and when you hear it, you stop lifting and just unscrew the lid — easy as pie.

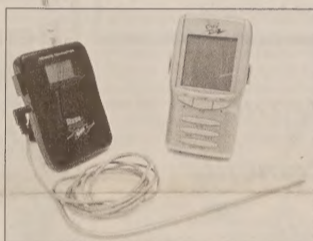


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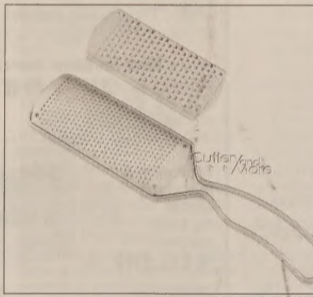
THE KITCHENAID

Artisan stand mixer is a new, larger-bowl version of the 1920's classic.

MAVERICK REDI CHEK remote thermometer lets you see what's going on inside your oven with the door closed.



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MICROPLANE STAINLESS STEEL grater frame and fine and coarse interchangeable blades.

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TWO MODELS wear Chef Works designer aprons. The Big Check pattern is on the left with Fish at right.



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LE CREUSET SILICON SPATULAS come in a seven-piece set, above right, in blue crock, or you can buy any of the individual spatulas at www.le-creuset.cast-iron-cookware.com in any cool color. **Jar Pop!** ergonomic jar opener, above left, was one of the top 10 products of the decade in the 2000 International Housewares Show. You use it to open jelly, jam, spaghetti sauce and anything else that comes in hard-to-open jars.

Book is much more than just recipes

BY BARBARA ALBRIGHT

AP WEEKLY FEATURES

WILTON, Conn. — Knowing that Jeremiah Tower had been one of the founders of California cuisine in the 1970s, as soon as I got my copy of his new cookbook, "Jeremiah Tower Cooks" (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, \$35), I checked out the recipes.

I tested a couple. "Cowboy-Style" fire-roasted onions was an easy, flavor-packed recipe, which I plan to take along as a delicious accompaniment on the next camp-out.

I also tested grilled bacon-wrapped salmon with basil mashed potatoes and sweet red onion sauce. This recipe was also very delectable — but the directions left a little bit to the imagination, and it required a little fiddling around with.

However, Tower's own introduction to the recipe suggests a much easier, intuitive combination.

"Salmon and bacon are made for each other," he says and goes on to advise: "A really easy way to cook them together is to put fresh basil leaves on top of a salmon fillet, cover with bacon strips and lots of freshly cracked black pepper, and cook in a hot (preheated) broiler. The salmon comes out moist and perfumed with basil and the flavors of the bacon."

On further reading, I found similar pearls of culinary wisdom scattered throughout the book, after a first chapter that is aptly named "Delights and Prejudices."

This chapter is full of Tower's comments on a variety of topics, some as simple as definitions of "resting," "chopping," and "boiling water."

Other topics include how to preserve duck legs in fat, brine a variety of types of meat, and how to make the perfect Bloody Mary.

During my first grocery list-making flip through its pages, I had not grasped the depth of cooking knowledge that Tower shares in this book.

Usually this information is based on Tower's own observations, but he also refers to the work of culinary legends such as the English food writer Elizabeth David. David's recipe for a very rich syllabub follows; you can make it ahead, so it's ideal for entertaining.

The book is illustrated with paintings by Donald Sultan. As the book jacket points out, Sultan is known for "his untraditional takes on the traditional genre of still life."

Tower, who was one of the first American "star" chefs, was originally chef at Alice Waters' renowned restaurant Chez Panisse, in Berkeley, Calif., in the '70s.

In 1984, he opened his highly acclaimed Stars restaurant in San Francisco; since then other Stars have been opened in the Far East. His first book, "New American Classic," won a James Beard award in 1986; in 1996, Tower won the James Beard Award for best chef in America.

Now he lives in New York City, and is writer and host of the PBS series, "America's Best Chefs."

Recipes

For his recipe for fire-roasted onions, Tower says: "Use a mild sweet onion hybrid of the Yellow Granex type: Maui (Hawaii), Vidalia (Georgia), or that European onion transplanted to Washington State, the Walla Walla Sweet."

"If you are baking or spit-roasting meats, quarter a few of these onions and put under the meat. All the juices will drip down onto them, the fire will cook them, and then you will want to throw away the meat and eat the onions by themselves with a great glass of

draft Pilsner Urquell.

"Eat them whole as a course with warm tomato-shrimp sauce (recipe is in Tower's book); serve them as is with grilled meats; or chop them up to make a sauce with lemon juice, extra-virgin olive oil, and chopped rosemary."

COWBOY-STYLE FIRE-ROASTED ONIONS

4 large red onions, peeled
4 bay leaves
1 dried chipotle chili, quartered, seeded

4 sprigs fresh thyme
1 tablespoon cumin seeds
8 slices smoked bacon
1 cup mild hot sauce, such as Pickapeppa sauce (see note)

Freshly chopped Italian parsley

Salt

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

Dig out 2 teaspoons of the center of each onion with a small spoon or a grapefruit knife. Reserve the scooped-out onion pieces.

Put a bay leaf, a piece of chipotle, a thyme sprig, and some cumin seeds in each of the cavities. Wrap each onion in two slices of bacon. Put each onion in a piece of foil large enough to wrap it, and spoon ¼ cup mild hot sauce over each. Put the scooped-out onion on top. Season.

Wrap each onion and cook in the embers of a cooling wood (or charcoal) fire, in a wood oven, or in a skillet covered with aluminum foil in a regular home oven. If cooked the last way you can omit the step of wrapping each onion individually.

Cook for 60 minutes, or until the onion is very tender. Unwrap, remove the bay leaf, chili and thyme, and continue with whatever the onion is to be used for. Just before serving the onions, sprinkle with the parsley. Makes 4 servings.

Note: Pickapeppa sauce, which Tower suggests using, is a mildly hot, spicy sauce, available in supermarkets.

GRILLED BACON-WRAPPED SALMON WITH BASIL MASHED POTATOES AND SWEET RED ONION SAUCE

Four 6-ounce pieces salmon fillets, boneless, skinless
1 bunch fresh basil, stemmed, stems saved, leaves washed

2 tablespoons olive oil

8 slices apple-wood smoked bacon, 1/8-inch thick

2 large red onions, peeled, cored, finely chopped

1 spring fresh thyme

8 tablespoons butter, cut into 8 equal pieces

½ cup fish or shellfish stock

6 medium boiling potatoes, peeled, quartered

1 cup milk, or more if needed

¼ cup heavy cream

4 drops sesame oil

1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

½ cup mixed fresh herb leaves (Italian parsley, chervil, tarragon)

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Chop the basil stems, and moisten them with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil. Put the salmon pieces in a shallow dish or bowl and pack the oiled basil stems around them. Marinate in the refrigerator for 2 hours.

Take the salmon out of the dish and wipe off the basil stems, saving them to put on the fire when you are grilling the salmon. Flatten the pieces of salmon slightly with the palm of your hand, and then with your hands form a 3-inch circle with each of the salmon pieces, the side of the salmon that held the skin on the inside of the circle. When the salmon has taken on a "medallion" shape, wrap 2

slices of bacon around each side edges of each salmon, securing them with toothpicks.

Put the onions in a pot with the thyme and 1 ½ cups of water. Add 2 ½ cups of water, cover, and simmer over low heat. Remove the lid, add the stock, and until reduced by half.

Blanch the basil in boiling water for 1 minute. Drain the leaves under the cold water, and refresh under cold water a few seconds, and drain immediately in a strainer. Add 1 tablespoon of the stock to the water.

Add 2 tablespoons of cream and blend until a smooth sauce. Remove the basil from the refrigerator.

Cook the potatoes in a pot of water until tender. Drain them through a colander into a saucepan. Add 1 ½ cups of water, and beat it into the potatoes with a masher. Incorporate the cream and fold it in. Season with salt, and keep warm over a low heat.

Grill or broil the salmon fillets, for 3 to 4 minutes. Heat the onion sauce in a skillet. Whisk in the remaining spoons of butter. Keep warm.

Whisk the basil and potatoes, season them with salt and pepper, and serve on four warm plates, the top and the onion sauce fish.

Mix the oil and lemon juice together and add the rest of the ingredients. The herb mixture over the potatoes. Makes 4 servings.

The syllabus and about which Elizabeth wrote, are glorious says, David called them and sumptuous. The mandarin is minimal, the tion is basic and elegant.

Since they must be a day or two in advance points out, they are part entertaining.

ELIZABETH DAVID SYLLABUS

½ cup Manzanilla
2 tablespoons brandy
1 lemon, finely zested
¼ cup sugar

1½ cups Double cream (recipe follows)

Pinch freshly ground black pepper

Pinch salt

Put the sherry, brandy, lemon zest and juice in a bowl and stir until the sugar is dissolved.

Let sit overnight. Strain the liquid only.

Put the sugar in a bowl with the strained liquid and stir until the sugar is dissolved.

Add the cream, nutmeg. Whisk the mixture for 10 minutes or until it thickens enough to soft peak on the whisk. become overbeaten or so be careful.

Spoon the syllabus (4-ounce) glasses, fill the top. Refrigerate until served.

David's note: This is when made with the syllabus, lemons, or using the fruit (seedless) chocolate. Makes 8 servings.

DOUBLE CREAM

1 cup heavy cream

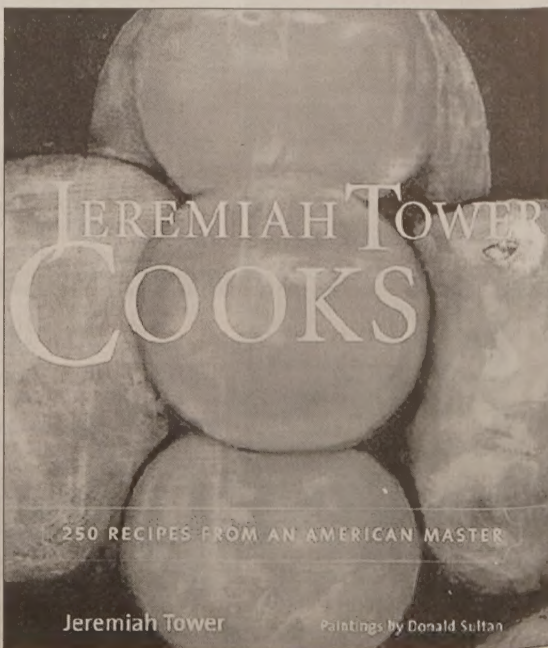
½ cup mascarpone

¼ cup buttermilk

Mix the ingredients in a bowl until smooth, and then temperature for 8 hours or 24 hours (or up to 48 hours). Makes 1½ cups.

Recipes adapted from "Jeremiah Tower Cooks" by Jeremiah Tower, Stewart, Tabori & Chang, \$35.

From an American Master, Tabori & Chang, \$35.



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Dutch ovens chase off the winter chill

BY JOE STUMPE

It's the time when our bodies crave long-simmering soups and braises most of all. The classic combination of meat and vegetables braised in red wine until the meat is tender is a Dutch oven recipe.

Chicken, taking the place of beef, is a filling for tortillas. In the Brunswick Stew, named by the residents of North Carolina and Georgia, the chicken is shredded and used as a filling for tortillas. Cooking with a Dutch oven is not like it's time when barbecuing (but using a Dutch oven is a lot more than dry heat), cooking temperatures for a long time. The Dutch oven is something wonderful, just enough to make the meat tender, just enough to make the Dutch oven's tight-fitting lid keep the heat in and stimulate a houseful of appetites.

What about that strange Dutch oven? Obviously, a Dutch oven is that other oven in your kitchen which has its own heat and is definitely not translatable. The moniker probably comes from the fact that a Dutch oven is a constant heat source, it can do nearly everything, and it can do it in a regular oven can, including braising.

Who knows whether Dutch ovens are really Dutch in origin. A Dutch oven is a "Dutch Oven" and "Dutch Ovens" are used in the United States. The Ragdale postulates several theories: that the ovens were first used in England using a Dutch cast-iron pot; that Dutch traders introduced them to this country, or that from the Dutch area of Pennsylvania they were popularized their use.

These models were cast-iron stoves with three legs to hold them above coals, and a flat lid with edges to hold more coals. They still many people who love this way, with dozens of Dutch oven societies organized in the country and world (see www.dutchovens.com for tips on how much to use, seasoning cast-iron and other information).

The definition has been expanded until it seems every pot that holds at least five quarts and has a lid to use as a Dutch oven. To tough, the pot should be of thick material, to allow it to keep moisture from escaping during cooking; and be safe over direct heat as well as in a slow many recipes start by browning ingredients.

Accompanying recipes, from "Stew" by Clifford A. Wright and Common Press, 2002) help you go Dutch.

STEW WITH PARSNIPS AND WINE
2 cups olive oil
2 cups butter
1 lb. boneless beef chuck, cut into large pieces of fat

and cut into 4 pieces
1 large onion, chopped
6 large garlic cloves, finely chopped
1 celery stalk, chopped
1 bouquet garni, consisting of 10 sprigs each fresh parsley and sage and 1 bay leaf, tied in cheesecloth
1 large parsnip, peeled and cut into chunks
1 large, ripe tomato, peeled, seeded and chopped
2 cups dry red wine
1 cup water
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

In a Dutch oven or casserole, heat the olive oil with the butter over medium-high heat until the butter melts, then brown the beef on all sides, 6 to 7 minutes. Remove the beef and set aside.

Add the onion, garlic and celery and cook, stirring, until the onion is translucent, 4 to 5 minutes. Return the meat to the Dutch oven, add the bouquet garni, parsnip, tomato, wine and water. Reduce the heat to low, cover and cook until the meat is very tender, 3 to 4 hours. Season with salt and pepper, discard the bouquet garni and serve. Makes 4 servings.

Source: "Real Stew" by Clifford Wright.

CHILI VERDE

10 fresh Anaheim (also called New Mexico) chiles
1/4 cup olive oil
1 large onion, coarsely chopped
4 large garlic cloves, passed through a garlic press or mashed in a mortar

2 pounds lean boneless pork shoulder or butter, trimmed of as much fat as possible and cut into 1-inch cubes
Masa harina (corn flour) for dredging

1 12-ounce bottle beer (lager)
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 to 3 tablespoons chipotle chile paste, to your taste
1 bay leaf
1 tablespoon dried oregano
2 tablespoons salt
2 tablespoons freshly ground black pepper

1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Place the chiles on a baking sheet and roast until the skins blister and turn black, watching them carefully, 25 to 30 minutes. Remove and place in a paper bag to steam for 10 minutes. Remove and, when cool enough to handle, peel, stem, seed and cut into strips.

In a Dutch oven or casserole, heat 2 tablespoons of the oil over medium heat, then cook the onion and garlic until translucent, stirring, about 8 minutes. Remove the onion with a slotted spoon and set aside. Add 1 tablespoon of the oil to the Dutch oven and let it heat up. Dredge the pork in the masa harina, tapping off any excess.

Brown the pork on all sides over medium heat, cooking in two batches if necessary so the pieces of meat don't touch each other, turning them with tongs, about 12 minutes for each batch. Use the remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil for the second batch. Set the meat aside. Deglaze the bottom of the Dutch

oven by pouring in about a quarter of the beer, scraping up the browned bits on the bottom with a wooden spoon. Once all the crust is picked up, add the remaining beer. Return the onion, garlic and pork to the Dutch oven. Add the cumin and cook for 10 minutes. Add the Anaheim chiles, chipotle chile paste, bay leaf, oregano, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, and reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook until the pork is very tender, stirring occasionally, about 45 minutes.

Add the cilantro leaves and cook another 10 minutes, then turn off the heat and let sit 5 minutes. Remove the bay leaf and serve. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Source: "Real Stew" by Clifford Wright.

BRUNSWICK STEW

4 slices bacon
1 chicken, about 3 lbs.
Flour for dredging chicken
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
3 medium-size onions, thinly sliced
1 1/2 cups boiling water
3 ripe tomatoes, peeled and sliced

2 red bell peppers, seeded and cut into thin strips
1 teaspoon dried thyme
2 cups fresh or frozen lima beans
3 ears of corn, husked and kernels scraped off (about 2 cups corn kernels)

1/2 lb. fresh okra, bottoms trimmed
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh parsley leaves
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

In a Dutch oven, cast-iron casserole or stew pot, render the fat from the bacon over medium heat until the bacon is crispy and you have 6 to 8 tablespoons of bacon fat in the pot, about 25 minutes. Cut the chicken into 8 portions. Dredge the pieces in the flour, salt and pepper, tapping off any excess. Brown the meat with the onions until the onions are soft, the meat has turned color, and the bottom of the pan is crusty with residue, about 10 minutes. Add the boiling water and deglaze the pot, using a wooden spoon to scrape up the crusty parts. Then add the tomatoes, bell peppers and thyme, and reduce the heat to low. Cover and simmer for 1 hour, stirring every once in a while. Add the lima beans, corn, okra, cayenne, parsley and Worcestershire



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and mix well. Let simmer, covered, until the meat and vegetables are tender, about 1 1/2 hours. The consistency should be that of a rich soup, but sometimes the broth is thickened slightly with roux or some fine bread crumbs. Makes 6 servings.

Source: "Real Stew" by Clifford Wright.

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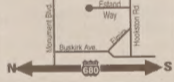
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Cole's cooking A to Z: A superb corned beef supper starts with the right cut

BY ANNETTE GOOCH
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

A superb corned beef supper starts with selecting the right cut, preferably beef brisket or rump. Check the label to ensure that the meat is indeed "corned beef" and that it is ready to cook — not precooked and ready to eat.

The flavor of corned beef depends both on the ingredients in which it is brined and the liquid in which you cook it. Rinsing the beef under running cold water before cooking it removes excess brine on the surface of the meat.

For a less salty taste, you can also soak the meat in cold water for an hour and drain off the water. Then parboil the corned beef in fresh water for a few minutes, drain and replace the water. Adding aromatic vegetables and pickling

spices to the cooking water gives the corned beef even more flavor.

Once the meat is fork-tender, serve it hot or give it a baked-on glaze. Either way, corned beef needs only some coleslaw, fresh bread, and pie or fresh fruit to make a memorable meal.

Success tips:

■ Corned beef is safe to eat when a meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the meat registers 160 degrees.

■ Color is not a reliable indicator of doneness in corned beef, since preservative (nitrite) in the brine causes the meat to retain a rosy color even when cooked.

■ Cutting very thin slices of corned beef for sandwiches is easier if the warm meat is placed into a bowl or glass loaf pan, covered

with a plate or tray, weighted with a heavy object and chilled before slicing.

Simmering the beef with pickling spice greatly enlivens its flavor. Most brands of pickling spice include mustard seed, cinnamon, allspice, bay leaf, black pepper, ginger, red pepper, cardamom, turmeric and mace. To store corned beef, wrap it well and refrigerate it for up to three days or freeze it for up to three months. Leftover corned beef makes wonderful sandwiches.

GLAZED CORNED BEEF WITH LENTILS

3 1/2- to 4-pound corned beef brisket
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
1 medium carrot, chopped
1 stalk celery, thinly sliced

1 clove garlic, minced or pressed

1 tablespoon mixed pickling spices, tied in a 2 1/2-inch square of cheesecloth (optional)

1/4 cup bottled chili sauce or ketchup

Mustard-Honey Glaze (recipe below)

2 cups (about 12 ounces) dried brown lentils (picked over, rinsed and drained)

Chopped parsley
1. Rinse corned beef well under cold running water, then place in a 5- to 6-quart pot or Dutch oven. Cover with 8 cups water and bring to a boil over medium-high heat; cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Drain, discarding water. Add onion, carrot, celery, garlic and cheesecloth bag of pickling spices; add enough fresh cold water to cover.

2. Bring to a boil; cover, reduce heat and simmer over very low heat until corned beef is very tender but not mushy and the internal temperature reaches 160 degrees (approximately 2 to 2 1/2 hours). Remove meat from cooking liquid, reserving liquid. Remove and discard pickling spices.

3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place corned beef on rack in a roasting pan. Spoon Mustard-Honey Glaze over corned beef.

Bake, uncovered, until well browned (30 to 40 minutes). Let stand at least 5 minutes before slicing.

4. Meanwhile, measure 3 cups of the cooking liquid (including some of the onion, carrot and celery) and return it to the pot in which the corned beef simmered. Mix in 3 cups water and chili sauce.

Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Add lentils, reduce heat to medium, and cook gently, uncovered, until lentils are tender and most of the liquid is absorbed (30 to 35 minutes).

Slice corned beef thinly and serve with lentils; sprinkle with parsley. Serves 6 to 8.

MUSTARD-HONEY GLAZE

1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
1/4 cup honey

In a small bowl, mix brown sugar and ginger. Blend in mustard and honey.

DILLED COLESLAW

1 medium head (about 1 1/2 pounds) green cabbage, thinly shredded

6 green onions (use part of tops), thinly sliced

1 sweet red or green pepper, seeded and finely chopped

1/2 cup reduced-fat mayonnaise

1/4 cup reduced-fat sour cream

1 small clove garlic, minced or pressed

2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh dill or 1 teaspoon dried

1 tablespoon each white wine vinegar and white wine

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon sugar

1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper

2 tablespoons olive oil (optional)

1. In large bowl, combine cabbage, green onions, pepper, dill, lemon juice, salt, sugar and white wine.

2. In another bowl, mix mayonnaise, sour cream, garlic, dill, lemon juice, salt, sugar and white wine.

3. Mix dressing lightly with cabbage mixture. Cover and refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours before serving.

Note: If red bell pepper is in season, you can cup thinly sliced radishes.

More kitchen essentials

BY TINA CROLEY
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Here are a few more must-haves for ambitious chefs. You'll find them at local department and specialty stores, or online.

■ **Tongs:** Oxo products are known for their high quality. The Good Grips line is easy to use, with soft handles and comfy thumb rests that make them perfect for older cooks and those with limited hand strength. 12-inch Oxo tongs sell for \$9.95.

■ **Kitchen soap:** If you do a lot of cooking with onions and garlic (OK, we "fess up" track down Carolina Designs Ltd. Kitchen Soap. It's about \$7 for a 7-ounce pump bottle, and it truly neutralizes the smell of hand-clinging odors. It's also great on dog and cat odors. The catch: It's only sold wholesale, so you'll need to call 800-552-2635 and ask for a search by zip code to see where it's sold in your area.

■ **Kitchen towels:** We swear by the waffle-weave cotton ones from Williams-Sonoma. They don't fade

and some have loops for hanging. Towels, four for \$15; dishcloths, eight for \$13 at www.williams-sonoma.com.

■ **Cherry or olive pitter:** Anyone who's made a cherry pie knows the value of this. And it's great after a visit to those self-serve olive bars at the grocery. A hand-held Bialetti V154, made in Italy, is \$6.

■ **Mezzaluna:** This little cutlery piece is perfect for mincing herbs, garlic, onion and more with an easy rocking movement. (No Japanese steak-house moves required.) Hold the smile-shaped blade and work your magic back and forth using a single handle or two knobs, depending on the design. It pays to buy a blade and bowl set — the bowl serves as a custom-fit cutting board. Solid maple won't crack or warp.

Check out the 7-inch blade and 10-inch bowl set at www.chefdepot.net for \$49.95.

■ **Kitchen shears:** Invest in a pair that will tackle anything. Look

for a pair that has blades that come apart; they are much easier to clean.

Check out Wusthof-Trident and Henckels. Cutco makes a pair it says will cut just about anything; check www.cutco.com for local shops.

Web sites

Most manufacturers have Web sites or here are a few sites to get you started:

■ www.kitchen101.com — with lists of the 101 kitchen essentials and 101 best kitchen links.

■ www.americastestkitchen.com — with product ratings by the folks from Cook's Illustrated magazine and its TV show.

■ www.qvc.com — with most anything you're looking for

■ www.gourmetfoodmall.com — with gourmet foods and products.

■ Also try thegadgetsources.com, www.cooking.com, www.cutleryandmore.com, www.culinarycafe.com and www.cooksworld.com.



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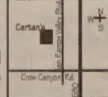
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